



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2015
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council is scheduled to hold an open debate on Tuesday, 27 January 2015, on the topic "Protection of civilians in armed conflict: protection challenges and needs faced by women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict settings". The related concept note is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Cristián Barros**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Security Council open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict: protection challenges and needs faced by women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict settings

Concept note

Background

For the first time, under the presidency of Chile, the upcoming biannual debate on the protection of civilians, to be held on 27 January 2015, will focus on the protection challenges and needs faced by women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict settings.

The outbreak, the continuation and the escalation of armed conflict and the recurrence of violence in post-conflict settings all over the world have taken a particular toll on women and girls, who have been rendered more vulnerable as a result of gender inequality and been directly targeted as part of war tactics and deliberate assaults on their rights. The Security Council continues to receive alarming reports of unacceptable violence committed against women, including many settings in which control of women's rights is at the very centre of the armed conflict. Although a particular focus on women's protection has been a mainstay of Council deliberations in thematic discussions since the turn of the last century, many gaps remain and deserve proper consideration by the Council.

The following paragraphs, taken from the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security of September 2014 (S/2014/693), starkly highlights the vastly dispiriting global landscape of women's rights in armed conflict-affected settings, and the urgent need to address the prominent underlying cause of gender inequality.

"... In Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, women have been directly targeted in the outbreak of violence, with reports of rape, forced marriage, forced prostitution, restrictions of movement, enforcement of dress codes and stoning of women for alleged adultery in areas controlled by militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. The escalation of violence in Iraq in 2014 includes the mass killing in Baghdad of women alleged to be sex workers and the targeting and mass abduction of minority women (S/2013/693, para. 34).

"In the Central African Republic and South Sudan, women have been disproportionately affected by mass displacement. In some areas of South Sudan, rates of female-headed households are close to 60 per cent and women and girls face significant security risks, including in sites for the protection of civilians. In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are continued concerns regarding the presence of armed groups, the increased number of internally displaced persons and refugees, who are mostly women and children, and continued incidents of sexual violence. In Afghanistan, the

number of women and girls killed or injured increased by 61 per cent in the first half of 2013, as compared with 2012, and targeted killings or attacks against women in public roles continued" (S/2014/693, para. 35).

"As violent extremism continues to spread, there is growing recognition that women's rights are under threat and that the role of women in countering terrorism and extremism is underutilized" (S/2014/693, para. 46).

Security Council developments

In 2000, the Security Council recognized, through the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), that the international community must make further efforts to understand the unique impact of armed conflict on women, the varying forms of violence they face and, consequently, the specific protection required to address their needs. It also stressed the importance of increasing women's participation in all aspects of the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian operations. In adding "Women, peace and security" as a thematic item to its agenda, the Council thus paved the way for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the agenda on protection of civilians.

In resolution 1960 (2010), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to set up monitoring and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and called upon parties to conflicts to make specific, time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence. The framework created by the Council through this resolution contemplates ad hoc reporting conduits, a "naming and shaming" principle, and formal engagement with parties to conflict. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, appointed pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009), oversees the operationalization of this framework.

Furthermore, resolution 2122 (2013) focuses on the need to address the full range of human rights violations and abuses experienced by women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. These include but are not limited to conflict-related killings and sexual violence in its multiple forms, such as rape, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, trafficking, sexual enslavement, forced circumcision and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;¹ the arbitrary detention of women and girls; abduction and forced marriage of women and girls; attacks on women and girls' education, including direct attacks on school girls; threats to families; increased targeting of civil society and women human rights defenders; continuing threats against women political leaders and media personnel; the destruction of civilian infrastructure; restrictions of movement; the enforcement of dress codes; physical violence meted out to those who do not abide by rules imposed by parties to armed conflict, including death, as in the case of stonings and honour killings; a heightened risk for women and girls, who account for the majority of victims of human trafficking overall, to fall victim to sex and labour trafficking; election-related violence against women; disproportionate suffering of internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and stateless persons as a result of lack

¹ Guidance Note of the Secretary-General, Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, June 2014, available at www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/GuidanceNoteReparationsJune-2014.pdf.

of safety and services, discriminatory gender norms and limited access to safe livelihoods for women to meet their basic needs and those of their families; and intimidation and harassment of individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Council has also expressed its concern at women's exacerbated vulnerability in armed conflict and post-conflict situations as a result of unequal citizenship rights, gender-biased application of asylum laws, and obstacles to registering and accessing identity documents, which occur in many situations.

Fundamental to addressing the array of security threats faced by women is the need for gender equality and women's empowerment. Women's empowerment and the protection of women's rights reduce women's vulnerability and enhance their ability to protect themselves and claim their rights. Women's representation, participation and leadership in protection mechanisms, from political leadership and public administration to security forces (both military and police), and accountability bodies, among others, are essential to ensure better protection for women and girls. In particular, given the crucial linkages between the participation of women in decision-making and their enjoyment of basic human rights, improving participation and leadership in refugee and internally displaced persons settings is essential. All the aforementioned is part of the so-called protection environment that is central to the protection of civilians concept. In accordance with this, in resolution 2122 (2013), the Security Council reiterated its intention, when establishing and renewing the mandates of United Nations missions, to include provisions on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In terms of appropriate responses required by a wider variety of actors, the 2014 Aide Memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict (see S/PRST/2014/3) by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in close consultation with Security Council members, refers to parties' obligations under international humanitarian law regarding the protection of women and girls; equal protection under the law and equal access to justice for women; the need to ensure that the protection, the rights, and the well-being of women and girls affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes; the need for Governments to implement multi-sectoral strategies to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; the inclusion of specific provisions for the protection of women and girls in the mandates of United Nations missions; the reports of the Secretary-General on countries in the agenda of the Council needing to include sections devoted to the protection challenges faced by women and girls; States, United Nations entities, regional organizations and other concerned parties ensuring increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries expanding the role and numbers of women in United Nations operations; and humanitarian and development actors taking appropriate action against sexual exploitation and abuse and ensuring compliance with the special measures of the Secretary-General, and to facilitate the participation of women, including from civil society, in consultations and outreach activities, among a number of other measures.

The Council has also recognized the importance of Member States and United Nations entities seeking to ensure that humanitarian aid and funding includes provision for the full range of medical, legal, psychosocial and livelihood services to women affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

The Council has further called for the systematic collection, analysis and utilization of sex and age-disaggregated data that is required to assess the specific needs and capacities of women, and to meaningfully measure to what extent recovery programmes are benefiting women, men, girls and boys, by all relevant actors (see S/PRST/2014/21).

Further, the Security Council has addressed the institutional and operational links between the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the responsibility to protect populations from the crimes of genocide (see Security Council resolutions 2150 (2014) and 2171 (2014)), crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.² Also, the recently published Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes is an important tool for the United Nations system and its Member States in understanding the processes, the precursors and the triggering factors that lead to the commission of atrocity crimes. The Security Council may consider reflecting on efforts taken to advance the protection of civilians from genocide and other mass atrocity crimes and further discuss how the framework could be integrated into the analysis and operational strategies guiding peace operations.

Scope and objectives

The debate will seek to highlight the specific impact of armed conflict on women and girls, including measures taken to monitor and better analyse the specific needs of women and to enhance the integration of a gender perspective into the work of United Nations entities and their partners involved in the response. The special needs of girls in this area should also be addressed. Specifically, this open debate will provide an opportunity to:

- (i) Draw the attention of the international community to major trends, issues and situations of concern with regard to the protection of civilians, specifically in relation to challenges, threats and needs faced by women and girls, including the state of implementation of international humanitarian law across current armed conflicts, including attempts to tackle the recent rise in violent extremism, and to exchange views on possible courses of action;
- (ii) Discuss effective measures for addressing the wide variety of protection threats and needs faced by women and girls in armed conflict affected settings as highlighted above, and how to ensure that women's empowerment is a central component of these efforts;
- (iii) Analyse the extent to which protection of women and girls and a gender perspective are currently integrated into the United Nations protection of civilians infrastructure, reporting and action, including but not limited to that of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping

² Arria formula meeting held on 14 March 2014 and chaired by France and Nigeria, focusing on the situation in the Central African Republic, in particular on communal and religious tensions and violence.

Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Security Council informal Experts Group on the Protection of Civilians;

(iv) Promote stronger monitoring and analysis of women's particular needs and consider an enhanced response, including within the work of entities involved in humanitarian work;

(v) Consider how to integrate women's protection concerns and needs in conflict and post-conflict settings into the various reviews currently being undertaken by the United Nations (namely those on peace operations, peacebuilding, sanctions and the protection cluster and on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, in addition to the global study on said resolution);

(vi) Highlight the need to better understand new operating environments and assess needs, including the gendered differentiation of protection needs as well as other areas for development, including justice and early warning (that is, the sustained and systematic assaults on women's rights as an early warning mechanism on the emergence of organized violence and extremism), and women's rights and protection in international and national accountability bodies, from international tribunals to commissions of inquiry;

(vii) Consider the current use of sanctions committees, inter alia, the inclusion of gender experts to assess the committees, designation criteria relating to the protection of women, gender balance in the appointment of the group of experts and gender-based reporting. In this regard, the Council may consider the Secretary-General's recommendation to the Council to consider expanding the relevant designation criteria to address specific human rights and international humanitarian law violations such as "gross violations of women's rights committed by extremist groups, sexual violence, other forms of gender-based crimes and targeted attacks against women";

(viii) Determine how the Security Council can ensure that the protection of women and girls and efforts to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict are applied more consistently to all situations on its agenda, including through monitoring the work of relevant actors and its impact.

Date/time: 27 January 2015, 10 a.m.

Location: United Nations Secretariat, Security Council Chamber

Briefers:

- Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon
- International Committee of the Red Cross Director for international law and cooperation, Helen Durham
- Ilwad Elman, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventieth year

**Letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith two annexes recording the infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I), as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships (see annex II) during the month of December 2014. It should be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal Tympou airport. I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic infringements by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus through blatant violations of international law, in a way that seriously jeopardizes safety and security in the greater region.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicholas Emiliou (Dr.)



Annex I to the letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
1 December	1414-1439	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia area control centre (ACC), landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1825-1854	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
2 December	0932-1118	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
3 December	1140-1338	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1348-1407	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1600-1615	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
	1805-2212	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1815-1925	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1841-1900	One King Air 350 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1905-1923	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
4 December	0923-1125	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	0955-1152	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1056-1114	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
6 December	1458-1517	One King Air 350 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
	1515-1535	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
7 December	1107-1202	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
8 December	1108-1220	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
10 December	0836-0913	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1004-1201	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1210-1228	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
	1315-1405	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1532-1545	Four F-4 and six F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1540-1610	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tymvou airport.
	1602-1632	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1803-1850	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
11 December	0806-0857	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1000-1141	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1004-1102	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1012-1120	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1017-1146	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1127-1254	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
	1457-1557	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
15 December	0829-0930	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1439-1616	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
16 December	1055-1253	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1507-1630	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
18 December	1133-1424	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1135-1200	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1136-1156	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1454-1514	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
	1542-1650	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1632-1648	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
20 December	1648-1705	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1926-1942	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
22 December	1012-1053	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1412-1435	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
23 December	0705-1550	Two S-70 Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	0942-0957	One C-650 Turkish aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1041-1100	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1554-1610	One ATR-72 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
	1700-1712	One C-650 Turkish aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
24 December	0948-1145	One Turkish helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
	1038-1318	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
25 December	0803-0900	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	0939-1241	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1016-1133	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1120-1217	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1304-1407	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1603-1750	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
27 December	0925-0955	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal Tympou airport.
	1055-1106	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal Tympou airport.
28 December	1020-1127	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
29 December	1011-1120	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
30 December	0758-0951	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
17 November-3 January	One A-571 Turkish tanker violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
3 December	One P-338 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
5 December	One P-338 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
10-11 December	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
11-14 December	One F-500 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
18-21 December	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
21-24 December	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
21-24 December	One F-500 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
31 December-2 January	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Original: English

**General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 33 and 38**

**Security Council
Seventieth year**

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development**

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

**Letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the recent provocations committed by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia on the line of contact.

On 14 January 2015, during the monitoring conducted on the contact line near Horadiz village of the Fuzuli district of the Republic of Azerbaijan under the mandate of the Personal Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairman-in-Office, the Armenian armed forces opened fire on the defence positions of the Azerbaijani army and attempted to disrupt the monitoring.

As reported, the field assistant of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Yevgeny Sharov, who participated in the monitoring on the Azerbaijani side, noted that, in compliance with the rules for monitoring, the units of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan did not respond by opening fire on the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia and thus ensured the necessary conditions for the completion of the monitoring.

These provocative acts are yet another vivid example of the deliberate policy and attempts of the Armenian side to aggravate the situation on the ground. The sole responsibility for deterioration of the situation and its consequences lies with the Republic of Armenia, the aggressor and occupying State.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Security Council

Distr.: General
20 January 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to notify you that the Government of Pakistan would like to see the following items retained on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

- (a) The India-Pakistan question;
- (b) The Hyderabad question;
- (c) The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Masood Khan



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Original: English

**Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Office in Burundi****I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2137(2014), in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) until 31 December 2014 and requested me to inform it on progress on the benchmarks, the implementation of the mandate of BNUB and of the resolution, the conditions that affect such implementation, and the transition of BNUB to the United Nations country team. The report provides an update since my previous report of 31 July 2014 (S/2014/550) and is structured around the benchmarks. The baselines and indicators of progress are reviewed in additional detail in the annex to the present report.

II. Over a decade of United Nations field missions in Burundi

2. The civil war that followed the assassination in 1993 of the first democratically elected President of Burundi, Melchior Ndadaye, ravaged the country for over a decade, killing some 300,000 Burundians and displacing over 1 million while destroying much of the country's economy. The conflict led the United Nations to increase its political involvement in Burundi in 1993, when the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB) was established as a confidence-building measure to facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule in the country.

3. United Nations support increased further with the establishment of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) pursuant to Security Council resolution 1545 (2004). The mission began operations on 1 June 2004 with a broad focus on supporting the implementation of the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi (hereinafter referred to as the "Arusha Accords"). The mission's mediation support, which included chairing the Implementation Monitoring Committee of the Arusha Agreement, was critical in helping to foster agreement on key challenges, including the extension of the transitional period, which provided the time necessary to hold national elections and draw up a new constitution. ONUB also assisted the Regional Peace Initiative led by the President of Uganda in facilitating negotiations between the Government and the last major armed group, Palipehutu-Forces nationales de libération (FNL), which led to a ceasefire agreement in 2006 and the integration of the group into the peace process.



4. By the time its mandate ended on 31 December 2006, ONUB had successfully facilitated the implementation of ceasefire agreements and helped to improve security throughout the country. It played a key role in assisting the disarmament and demobilization of some 22,000 combatants and supported the complex process that led to the creation of an integrated national police force and the rightsizing of the Burundian army from 80,000 to 30,000. ONUB also helped to establish the Independent National Electoral Commission (Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI)), provided critical support to the organization of the first post-transition democratic elections and strongly advocated for and mobilized the participation of women in the electoral process.

5. The United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1719 (2006), succeeded ONUB on 1 January 2007. BINUB assisted the Government in its efforts towards long-term peace and security throughout the peace consolidation phase. It also supported the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the Government and Palipehutu-FNL. After the ceasefire was breached in 2008, BINUB assisted the Regional Peace Initiative and other stakeholders in facilitating agreements that led to the cessation of all hostilities. In addition, the Office was instrumental in supporting the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former Palipehutu-FNL combatants and the transformation of Palipehutu-FNL into a political party.

6. To help to ensure that the country's reconciliation and transitional justice process would be fully owned by the population, BINUB organized, jointly with the Government and civil society, a series of consultations in 2009 and 2010 with a wide range of stakeholders throughout Burundi. The Office helped the Government to establish and strengthen national institutions, including the Anti-corruption Brigade and Court, the National Communication Council, the National Security Council, the Permanent Forum for Dialogue among the Political Parties and the Office of the Ombudsman, while also providing support to CENI to prepare and hold the country's second post-transition elections.

7. The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), established on 1 January 2011 pursuant to Security Council resolution 1959 (2010), succeeded BINUB and was mandated to support the consolidation of peace, democracy and development. The mission was instrumental in promoting and strengthening an inclusive political dialogue in the aftermath of the 2010 elections, which had been boycotted by several opposition parties and led to increased political polarization and deepening mistrust. This dialogue ultimately led to the return of exiled politicians in 2013 and their continued participation in political processes. BNUB also played a central role in helping the Government, the opposition and civil society to build a solid legal and political framework, consisting of several consensual agreements, for the 2015 elections. The adoption of an electoral road map, a new electoral law and a code of conduct are key tools to guide the country towards a peaceful and inclusive electoral process.

8. In addition, BNUB helped to strengthen and build the capacity of existing Government institutions and supported the establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, which was internationally recognized for its crucial role in promoting and monitoring human rights in Burundi. The mission also continued to help the Government to enact sector-wide security reforms and deepen regional integration and provided advice on measures to combat corruption and undertake inclusive transitional justice and reconciliation processes.

III. Progress in peace consolidation

A. Democratic process

9. The political situation in Burundi remains tense. Opposition leaders have increasingly objected to the stance of CENI on electoral issues, its perceived lack of transparency in the implementation of the electoral calendar and its interpretation of the electoral law, which led to the exclusion from CENI consultations of those considered “political actors”, most of whom are former leaders of key opposition parties who now represent wings that are not recognized by the Government. Political tensions and the deep mistrust between the ruling party and other stakeholders, including opposition parties and civil society organizations, persist, notwithstanding the efforts to foster political dialogue and the reduction in political violence perpetrated by Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD). Despite such hurdles and, unlike in 2010, all stakeholders, including opposition parties, have continually reaffirmed their determination to take part in the 2015 elections.

10. In early August, the opposition coalition Alliance démocratique pour le changement-Ikibiri (ADC-Ikibiri) and several civil society organizations, including the Observatoire de lutte contre la corruption et les malversations économiques (OLUCOME), accused the Government of planning to rig the voter registration process and the elections through the alleged fraudulent distribution of national identity cards by local administrative officials in six provinces to members of the ruling CNDD-FDD, including children below the voting age. To register for the electoral roll, citizens are required to present their identity cards. On 11 August, the Minister of the Interior rejected the allegations and urged local administrators to ensure the issuance of identity cards to all eligible citizens.

11. On 9 and 10 August, representatives of Sahwanya-Front pour la démocratie au Burundi (Sahwanya-FRODEBU) and the Mouvement pour la solidarité et le développement (MSD) in Cibitoke and Bubanza Provinces alleged the forced collection of money from citizens by CNDD-FDD members to support the party's preparations for the 2015 elections. On 11 August, the spokesperson of CNDD-FDD rejected the allegations but acknowledged that the party had launched an appeal for voluntary contributions from its members and sympathizers. In a similar vein, on 25 August, ADC-Ikibiri and FRODEBU Nyakuri accused CNDD-FDD of intimidating members of opposition parties in Rumonge, Bururi Province, by compiling lists of local inhabitants and their political affiliations. The spokesperson of CNDD-FDD denied that the party had conducted or authorized the conduct of any form of census and called upon the police to arrest and punish those involved.

12. Since the announcement of the electoral calendar, opposition parties have frequently criticized the management of the electoral process by CENI, questioned its credibility and accused it of irregularities, lack of transparency, bias and attempted pre-electoral fraud. The President of CENI and ruling party officials have rejected those accusations as baseless. On 12 August, the spokesperson of CENI announced that it would not accept the candidacies of politicians who had pending judicial cases against them, alleging that that would render them ineligible to vote or be elected. In addition, the spokesperson of the Supreme Court announced on 20 August that all presidential candidates in the 2015 elections would have to

provide CENI with an "attestation de non poursuite", a document certifying that there are no pending lawsuits against them, and identified the President of Sahwanya-FRODEBU, Frédéric Bamvuginyumvira, and the former leader of FNL, Agathon Rwasa, as two of the individuals who would fall foul of that requirement. Mr. Bamvuginyumvira was arrested in December 2013 for adultery, public indecency and attempted corruption of an officer of the law, while Mr. Rwasa has been accused by chiefs of the Congolese Tutsi community in Burundi of the alleged involvement of his rebel movement, Palipehutu-FNL, in the 2004 massacre of Congolese Banyamulenge in a transit camp in Gatumba. Both Mr. Bamvuginyumvira and Mr. Rwasa have denied the validity of the claims. The President of Sahwanya-FRODEBU and ADC-Ikibiri denounced the requirement as a CNDD-FDD strategy to exclude opposition candidates from the electoral process. On 23 October, the President of CENI rejected those accusations and stated on 5 December that all candidates with pending court cases could vote and be elected.

13. On 20 August, the spokesperson of Sahwanya-FRODEBU called upon CENI to comply with the Electoral Code by revising the electoral calendar so as to allow for the establishment of the provincial and communal independent electoral commissions prior to voter registration. At a meeting with civil society organizations and political parties on 26 August, the President of CENI agreed that voter registration should commence only after the establishment of those commissions. The provincial and communal independent electoral commissions were established on 1 October and 28 October respectively. Voter registration began on 24 November and was extended to 12 December.

14. On 4 September, the President of CENI announced plans to hold broad consultations with political parties and civil society organizations, including religious denominations and provincial governors, to select candidates for the provincial and communal independent electoral commissions. The President stated that "political actors" could not participate in the process since their role is not specified in the Constitution or in the Electoral Code and involving them in the consultations would therefore be unlawful. The Minister of the Interior called upon political actors to create their own political parties, join registered coalitions of political parties or run as independent candidates. On 4 December, Agathon Rwasa, the former President of FNL, announced that he and his supporters would participate in the electoral process as independent candidates.

15. On 16 September, 10 political parties and the ADC-Ikibiri coalition addressed a letter to CENI requesting it to respect Burundian law, deploring alleged irregularities, lack of transparency and attempted fraud in the electoral process and calling upon CENI to ensure the inclusion of all political parties and actors in the provincial and communal independent electoral commissions. On 16 October, the President of Sahwanya-FRODEBU and ADC-Ikibiri claimed that members of CNDD-FDD and civil society organizations sympathetic to the party accounted for the majority of the membership of the provincial independent electoral commissions. They also maintained that the approach of CENI called into question the credibility of the entire electoral process. On 13 October, MSD pulled out of the provincial independent electoral commissions after CENI swapped two of its members in the commissions in the provinces of Gitega and Ngozi without the party's consent. Citing its insufficient representation, the civil society organization OLUCOME announced on 30 October its decision to pull out of the provincial independent electoral commissions. It subsequently withdrew from the communal

commissions as well. On 1 December, ADC-Ikibiri withdrew from the provincial as well as the communal independent electoral commissions while reaffirming its determination to remain engaged in the electoral process.

16. CENI held two meetings, on 1 and 5 December, with electoral stakeholders, including "political actors" who had been excluded from previous meetings, to assess the voter registration process. The President of CENI assured participants that the dialogue between CENI and all interested stakeholders would become permanent. However, opposition leaders continued to denounce various irregularities observed prior to and during the voter registration, notably the alleged fraudulent distribution of identity cards, and called for the suspension of the voter registration process, which CENI ruled out.

17. Meanwhile, on 2 October, the High Court of Bujumbura Mairie sentenced Léonce Ngendakumana to one year in prison. He had been accused by the CNDD-FDD party and Radio Rema FM of making damaging allegations and false accusations and inciting racial hatred. The accusations were made in relation to a letter that Mr. Ngendakumana sent to me on behalf of ADC-Ikibiri on 6 February. In the letter, he called upon the international community to exert pressure on the CNDD-FDD-led Government to forestall "political genocide", warned against an impending humanitarian disaster in Burundi and likened Imbonerakure, the CNDD-FDD youth wing, to the Rwandan Interahamwe. Mr. Ngendakumana's lawyers denounced the trial as politically motivated and filed an appeal against the sentence. Meanwhile, Mr. Ngendakumana continued to carry out his political activities.

18. On 23 October, the Government and BNUB organized, in Gitega, a third workshop to evaluate the implementation of the electoral road map towards the 2015 elections. Some 150 participants attended the workshop, including Government officials, political parties and actors, representatives of civil society organizations and religious communities, the media and the international community. "Political actors", including former Union pour le progrès national (UPRONA), Union pour la paix et le développement (UPD) and FNL leaders Charles Nditije, Chauvineau Mugwengezo, Pascaline Kampayano and Agathon Rwaswa, deplored their exclusion from the consultations organized by CENI as part of the electoral process, which they viewed as a violation of the electoral road map and the code of conduct for the 2015 elections. The Government reiterated its commitment to continue engaging in dialogue with opposition parties, while opposition leaders and political actors reaffirmed their willingness to participate in the 2015 elections despite their reservations about the electoral process to date.

19. On 28 November, President Nkurunziza reshuffled his entire Office, including two of his closest advisers. He appointed General Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, his Chief of Staff, as Permanent Secretary of the National Security Council and the Head of the National Intelligence Service, General Adolphe Nshimirima, as Officer in Charge of Special Duties. Mr. Bunyoni and Mr. Nshimirima were replaced by Anatole Manirakiza, a former Vice-President of the Senate, and General Godefroid Niyombare, a former Chief of Army Staff, respectively.

B. Security and stability

20. The security situation in the country remained relatively stable despite a temporary spike in crime and increased concern about possible terrorist attacks. At a

meeting in Bujumbura on 3 November, the Minister of the Interior indicated that the Government had sufficient evidence that terrorist groups were preparing attacks in the country, in particular against churches and markets. He called upon religious leaders to warn members of their communities to be vigilant. The period between August and October also witnessed an increase in crime, especially grenade attacks, assaults and armed robberies, mostly in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi and Mwaro Provinces. The occurrence of criminal incidents is facilitated by the ready availability of unexploded ordnance and small arms and light weapons in the country.

21. There was a sharp reduction in clashes between Government forces and armed groups, from 11 clashes in the first half of 2014 to 3 since August. On 5 October, an armed group attacked military positions of the Force de défense nationale (FDN) in the Rukoko Natural Reserve on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During that clash, one of the attackers was killed and another wounded. The spokesperson of the army denied that a rebel group was operating in the park and attributed the incident to armed bandits. A spokesperson of the FNL faction led by Aloys Nzabampema claimed responsibility and announced further attacks before the elections in 2015.

22. In a press briefing on 3 October, an FDN spokesperson indicated that Burundian soldiers were stationed in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to foster the exchange of information between the two countries with regard to peace and security in the area and to assist the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in fighting armed groups in the country's Uvira highlands. Between 6 and 11 October, some 150 Burundian soldiers withdrew from the Kiliba-Ondes area in South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of Burundi has not commented on the troop withdrawal.

23. BNUB continued to advocate for increased respect for human rights in the defence and security forces. BNUB, in collaboration with the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, concluded a three-month training course to help to professionalize the country's defence and security forces in accordance with international human rights standards. On 1 September, 35 military, police and intelligence officers were certified as human rights trainers.

C. Transitional justice

24. Since the promulgation of the law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on 15 May, the process of establishing Burundi's transitional justice mechanisms has continued to come under criticism from many stakeholders, including the Conference of Catholic Bishops. In an open letter signed on 4 September, the bishops deplored the lack of consultation in the lead-up to the adoption of the law by the National Assembly on 17 April and insisted that the commissioners should be individuals of the utmost integrity and able to conduct their work on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and participation. Many opposition parties and civil society organizations also stated that their views had not been taken into account in drafting the law. As a result, leading opposition parties continue to boycott the process and some civil society organizations have been reluctant to participate therein.

25. On 3 December, the National Assembly elected 11 individuals to serve as commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The membership of the Commission is ethnically mixed, includes four women and is chaired by two religious leaders. It is composed of six representatives of religious communities and five members of political parties. UPRONA boycotted the election of the Commission members, citing insufficient inclusivity of the process. Some civil society organizations highlighted the alleged failure to take on board the outcome of the 2009 national consultations, including the recommendation to select a civil society representative as a commissioner.

D. Governance and institution-building

26. While some steps have been taken to address corruption, anti-corruption policies have thus far produced few results and corruption in the country remains widespread. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index compiled by Transparency International, Burundi's ranking fell by two places, to 159th out of 175 countries. In his address to the nation on 26 August, President Nkurunziza acknowledged the existence of corruption among Government officials and stressed the need to find appropriate measures to address the problem. In a positive development, as in 2013 and 2012, the Burundian Revenue Authority registered an increase in its revenue collection. It collected revenues amounting to 630 billion Burundi francs (\$401 million) in 2014, compared with 505 billion (\$322 million) in 2013.

27. Nevertheless, civil society organizations active in the fight against corruption continued to denounce acts of corruption and embezzlement of public funds. On 26 August, the President of Parole et actions pour le réveil des consciences et l'évolution des mentalités (PARCEM) claimed that the zero tolerance policy against corruption initiated by President Nkurunziza had failed, noting that, allegedly, not a single senior official declared his or her assets before taking office as required by the Law on the Prevention and Punishment of Corruption. Meanwhile, the President of OLUCOME was temporarily detained on 25 September to prevent him from undertaking an anti-corruption march in Bujumbura.

28. The Government took some steps towards revising the legal framework for the fight against corruption. On 16 and 17 October, it organized a two-day workshop in Gitega, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bilateral partners, to identify the main shortcomings in the current law and recommend ways of reforming the current legal framework. The approximately 100 participants from several ministries and State institutions, the Anti-corruption Brigade and Court, civil society and the international community agreed on the need to, inter alia, reform the legal framework of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Inspection générale de l'Etat) and the Court of Audit (Cour des comptes) in conformity with international standards and ensure that internal audit structures are set up in autonomous bodies.

29. BNUB also continued to provide funding and technical assistance to the anti-corruption efforts of the Ministry of Justice. On 1 October, it funded the organization of a workshop on the validation of a strategic plan to fight corruption in the justice sector. The workshop approved the strategic plan, which will be implemented by a follow-up committee within the Ministry of Justice.

E. Rule of law

30. Efforts to strengthen the protection of witnesses and victims have been advancing, but progress in building an independent, accessible and credible justice system has been slow. No steps were taken by the Ministry of Justice to implement the recommendations on the High Judicial Council highlighted by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in its June 2014 report. The working group on the independence of justice also was not convened. Although a follow-up committee to the National Conference on Justice (Etats généraux de la justice) was established by the Minister of Justice on 10 February 2014, its inclusiveness was challenged by several national and international stakeholders, who highlighted that, contrary to the committee's terms of reference, bar associations and civil society organizations were denied membership.

31. Tensions also persisted between the Union of Burundian Magistrates (SYMABU) and the Minister of Justice. By a ministerial order, on 12 August the Ministry of Justice suspended the President of SYMABU from his post as magistrate for a period of two months for absence without leave. The President of SYMABU had allegedly been summoned by the Office of the Prosecutor General in Gitega on the day of his absence. The decision was perceived by members of the Union as targeting the new executive of SYMABU, a body that the Minister of Justice has not recognized.

32. During the reporting period, some progress was nevertheless achieved in the area of the protection of victims and witnesses. On 30 September, a workshop was jointly organized by BNUB and UNDP in Bujumbura to validate the findings of a study on the protection of victims and witnesses. Thirty participants took part, including representatives from the justice sector, the police, civil society and academia, as well as technical and financial partners. A draft bill on the protection of victims and witnesses was prepared and submitted to the Government and other stakeholders on 26 November.

F. Human rights

33. During the reporting period, the number of extrajudicial killings and cases of torture and ill-treatment, as well as politically motivated acts carried out by Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD, substantially decreased. However, ongoing impunity, continued threats against journalists and human rights defenders and severe restrictions on freedoms of assembly and expression remain a serious impediment to the creation of a conducive environment for the 2015 elections.

34. Between August and December, BNUB recorded a monthly average of 3 politically motivated incidents involving Imbonerakure, compared with an average of 14 such incidents documented between January and July. On 23 August, the President of CNDD-FDD stated that Imbonerakure was not on the ground to replace the police, but rather to indicate areas where security was precarious. He also warned members of the youth wing that anyone who committed a crime would be held individually accountable. Similarly, there was also a marked decrease in the number of extrajudicial killings and cases of torture and ill-treatment. BNUB documented 24 cases of torture and ill-treatment compared with 43 during the

previous reporting period, and three extrajudicial killings compared with four in the first half of 2014. None of the killings were politically motivated.

35. However, violations of the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association by local authorities and the police persisted. BNUB documented seven cases of intimidation against journalists and members of civil society organizations and opposition parties that were allegedly carried out by local administrative officials and the police. BNUB also documented 17 cases where the activities of civil society organizations and opposition parties were disrupted and requests for peaceful public demonstrations or meetings were denied by administrative officials or the police despite fulfilment of the legal requirements.

36. No significant progress was made in the fight against impunity. Of the 138 cases of extrajudicial killings documented by BNUB since 2011, only 34 cases have been tried in a court of law, including 3 of the 7 cases documented in 2014. No perpetrator of torture documented in 2014 has thus far been tried in a court of law.

37. During the period under review, the human rights situation in Burundi also attracted the attention of the international community. On 18 September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution expressing concern about the human rights situation in the country, while firmly condemning the detention of Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, the President of Association burundaise pour la protection des droits humains et des personnes détenues, and calling for his immediate and unconditional release owing to his deteriorating health. Mr. Mbonimpa was arrested on 16 May and accused of endangering State security for having declared on radio that some young Burundians were receiving paramilitary training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was granted provisional release by the High Court of Bujumbura on 29 September on health grounds, following a review of his case by a medical commission set up by the court on 10 September.

38. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, conducted a visit to Burundi from 15 to 25 November at the invitation of the Government. In a press conference on 25 November, Mr. Forst criticized repeated threats against human rights defenders and journalists and recalled that a free and independent media capable of exposing abuses of power and corruption was essential to safeguard civil liberties, promote transparency and foster the broad participation of citizens in public life. He also noted that the draft bill on associations contains provisions that violate international norms and imperil the principle of free association. He called upon Burundi to adopt a law ensuring the legal status of human rights defenders, as other African countries have done in the past.

39. BNUB continued to provide technical support to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, including assistance in the preparation of an alternative report to the Committee against Torture. The report was presented by the President of the Commission in November at a meeting of the Committee against Torture on 11 November. In the period under review, BNUB also carried out a project to contribute to the establishment of a human rights observation network composed of 13 prominent human rights non-governmental organizations, which have pooled their expertise and resources to conduct human rights monitoring throughout Burundi ahead of the elections.

G. Social and economic development

40. Burundi continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world and ranks 180th out of 187 countries on the 2014 human development index. Improvements in health and education notwithstanding, a large majority of the population continues to live below the poverty line.

41. On 25 August, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the fifth review of Burundi's economic performance. While the country's economy was expected to grow by 4.7 per cent in 2014, IMF noted that the medium-term macroeconomic outlook was challenging owing to possible risks arising from election-related uncertainty, economic disruptions and violence, all of which could impact investment and growth. The review further warned of the high likelihood that the political and security situation could deteriorate, which in turn could curtail Government spending and lead to social unrest and lower growth. In addition, aid might shrink if Burundi's partners were to conclude that the country has made insufficient progress in strengthening human rights and the rule of law.

42. On 30 July, the National Assembly of Burundi released a revised budget for 2014 to address a deficit of 45 billion Burundi francs in early 2014. The new budget is geared towards offsetting revenue losses in the first half of the year. The measures introduced by the budget include, inter alia, the elimination of deductible value added tax exemptions on imports, the reintroduction of the 1 per cent minimum turnover tax, and taxes on telecommunications, tobacco, flour, sugar, petroleum products, beverages and other goods. A widening budget deficit in 2015 could curtail the ability of the Government to mitigate risks resulting from the country's vulnerability to external economic shocks and the fragile political situation ahead of the 2015 elections.

43. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and humanitarian partners continued to provide protection and assistance to approximately 58,000 refugees and asylum seekers who reside in Bujumbura and four refugee camps in the various provinces. Since August 2014, some 1,148 asylum seekers fleeing continued fighting between the Congolese Armed Forces and Mai Mai militias in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo have arrived in Burundi. UNHCR also continued advocacy and close collaboration with the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender to offer an estimated 78,000 internally displaced persons full access to durable solutions, including local integration. A pilot project for the voluntary return of 320 households living in five internally displaced person settlements was launched in July 2014. In addition, seven workshops on peace consolidation and peaceful coexistence were organized from September to November 2014 in Ngozi, Kirundo and Gitega Provinces.

IV. Cross-cutting issues

A. Gender

44. In view of the 2015 elections, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provided support to women's civil society organizations in order to increase the political participation of women and to political parties in the implementation of action plans to mainstream gender into

their programmes and policies. UN-Women co-organized a workshop, held from 27 to 31 October, that led to the adoption of several formal commitments by CENI to mainstream gender into its strategy and plans throughout the electoral cycle.

45. UN-Women also placed emphasis on increasing the involvement of women in peace consolidation initiatives at the community level, especially with respect to the 2015 elections. A two-day retreat was held with women's civil society organizations on 17 and 18 October in Ijenda, Bujumbura Rural Province, to develop a network of women mediators. As part of the initiative, 516 women will be selected and trained to promote peace, assist in solving conflicts within communities and report on incidents of gender-based violence.

46. To prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence, the Burundian National Police, with the support of UN-Women, adopted a two-year action plan on 22 September. In addition, UN-Women started awareness-raising campaigns in August to transform the beliefs, attitudes and behaviour of communities regarding violence against women and girls and to increase the awareness of women and girls about the availability of support services.

B. Child protection

47. To strengthen the capacity of the Government to implement minimum standards for children living in institutions and deprived of family care, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) trained 49 Government social workers in July in the provinces of Gitega, Kirundo, Kayanza and Bujumbura Mairie on alternative care guidelines, case management and other topics. UNICEF also strengthened the capacity of the Child and Family Department of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender to undertake case management of vulnerable children through the establishment of a child protection information management system in July.

48. There are continuing efforts to build the capacity of the justice and the police sectors in child rights and juvenile justice. In that regard, UNICEF and the International Bureau for Child Rights conducted training for 133 juvenile judges in Gitega and Ngozi in August and September. In October, they also trained 30 police instructors at the Police Academy to become trainers.

49. UNICEF continues to build the capacity of the National Children's Forum, a participative structure for children to exchange and discuss issues of concern to them. Within that framework, 903 forum members were trained in 17 provinces on 27 and 28 August on various topics, including human and child rights, interpersonal communication and advocacy. Another 25 child journalists participated in training sessions on conflict-sensitive journalism from 8 to 12 September in Bujumbura.

C. Activities relating to the Peacebuilding Commission

50. The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Paul Seger of Switzerland, continued to work closely with my Special Representative, the Government and key partners to strengthen support for the consolidation of peace in Burundi. As part of his engagement, the Chair addressed the Security Council during its session on the situation in Burundi on 5 November,

stressing the importance of ensuring an inclusive electoral process and calling upon all political actors in Burundi to participate in the elections and refrain from any action that could increase tensions.

51. The Chair of the Burundi configuration participated in the round table held on 11 and 12 December in Bujumbura, to assess progress against mutual commitments made at the Geneva Partners Conference in 2012 and reinvigorate the relationship between Burundi and its international partners. The round table was opened by President Nkurunziza and attended by Gervais Rufyikiri, Second Vice-President of Burundi, Laurent Kavakure, Minister for External Relations and International Cooperation, Jeffrey Feltman, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, my Special Representative for Burundi, and Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, my Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The round table adopted a communiqué that highlighted important progress made to date and re-emphasized the mutual commitments of the Government and its partners adopted at the 2012 Geneva Partners Conference, including a commitment to support Burundi in organizing free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in 2015.

52. In August 2014, the first project of the third peacebuilding priority plan was approved by the Bujumbura-based Joint Steering Committee. The \$2 million project focuses on strengthening the protection of human rights and is being implemented through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The project supports, inter alia, the establishment of one new regional office of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and focal points in 13 provinces to ensure better coverage of the provinces. In November, two projects focusing on the empowerment of women, to be implemented by UN-Women, were approved.

V. Transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi to the United Nations country team

53. On 31 December, the mandate and drawdown of BNUB came to an end, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2137 (2014) and on the basis of the Joint Transition Plan submitted to the Council on 14 May. The implementation of the Plan was led by the Transition Steering Group, co-chaired by my Special Representative and the Burundian Minister for External Relations and International Cooperation, and was accompanied by an external and internal communication strategy that relayed key messages to stakeholders throughout the transition process.

54. Ensuring continuity in facilitating political dialogue and high-level advocacy is critical to further consolidating peace after the drawdown of BNUB. Activities in that area will be undertaken by a combination of actors, including the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (to be known by the French acronym MENUB) and relevant United Nations regional political offices, in close coordination with regional and international partners, including the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the European Union. My Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Saïd Djinnit, and my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, used the occasion of their

visits to Burundi in October and December to renew the Organization's commitment to continued political engagement in Burundi following the withdrawal of BNUB.

55. In the period under review, the United Nations continued to provide support to the electoral process through the UNDP-managed electoral assistance project, while MENUB, which was deployed on 1 January 2015, will observe, follow and report on the 2015 electoral processes. My Special Envoy and Head of MENUB, Cassam Uteem, assumed his responsibilities on 1 January and started engaging with Burundian electoral stakeholders to help to foster the conditions for peaceful, inclusive and credible elections.

56. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have taken over the lead on international support to governance and institution-building, including technical support to the Parliament, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-corruption Brigade. With the support of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections, a rule of law strategy was drafted with strategic recommendations to strengthen and focus United Nations country team support to those areas.

57. On 11 August, the Government approved the continued presence of OHCHR immediately after the departure of BNUB, on the basis of the 1995 host country agreement. On 10 December, the Peacebuilding Support Office approved, as an exceptional measure, an amount of \$888,725 in support of the immediate start-up of the office as of 1 January to enable OHCHR to continue its monitoring of the human rights situation without interruption for a period of six months in the lead-up to the elections.

58. My Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs visited Burundi from 10 to 12 December to meet with national, regional and international stakeholders on the margins of the round table on follow-up to the 2012 Geneva Partners Conference and to mark the end of BNUB. In line with its staff drawdown plan, BNUB gradually reduced the number of staff throughout the second half of 2014. All BNUB staff received a package of career development training and guidance, while a job fair was organized in Bujumbura on 24 September to support career prospects for national staff.

VI. Observations

59. Burundi has come a long way since the signing of the Arusha Accords more than 14 years ago. The Arusha Accords marked the beginning of a transitional period underpinned by a commitment to power-sharing, ethnically balanced institutions, the development of a new Constitution, the establishment of a transitional government, elections and the promise of national reconciliation. However, progress is not limited to these key achievements. Ethnic-based hostilities and tensions have declined significantly over the past decade and the current political landscape is dominated by competition between the ruling party and the opposition, not by ethnicity. In addition, Burundi today is much safer and more secure than a decade ago, as manifested by the drastic reduction in armed clashes, cases of torture and extrajudicial killings. The army, once a perpetrator of violence, has transformed itself into a pillar of stability and ethnic unity that enjoys the confidence of Burundians while helping to secure peace elsewhere in Africa. After a 12-year gap, Burundi has organized two elections since 2005 and is currently preparing for a third one. In a clear break with the past, the past two elections did

not lead to large-scale killings, despite the country's long history of election-related violence. Burundi has seen the number of displaced persons dwindle from over 1 million to fewer than 100,000 today, while the participation of women in political and economic life has risen significantly.

60. These achievements, and the spirit of Arusha on which they were built, have resulted in almost a decade of peace. Today, Burundi has the chance to move beyond its violent past towards a future of lasting peace and stability. Today's children are the country's first generation since independence with no direct experience of conflict. It is the responsibility of today's leaders to break the cycle of strife and ensure that this generation is also the country's first to learn about war only from stories and history books.

61. Burundi is at peace, but it cannot rest on its laurels. The country must ensure that its significant accomplishments are not reversed. The main driver of Burundi's conflict, namely political exclusion and the struggle for power, still exists. Too many Burundians still suffer from high levels of poverty and unemployment. The political landscape is marred by polarization and political space is limited. Weak institutions, corruption and human rights violations remain prevalent. These grievances of the population, if left unaddressed, could eventually lead to a recurrence of conflict.

62. Politically, Burundi is at a crossroads. The 2015 elections could either consolidate or unravel the peace consolidation efforts undertaken since the Arusha Accords. The spirit of Arusha, which enshrined the principles of dialogue, consensus and democracy, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, has been eroding, especially since the 2010 elections, which ushered in a period of increased mistrust, polarization and political tensions. Political space has been shrinking as a result of restrictive laws. Opposition supporters face intimidation, harassment and political violence. The right of the opposition and civil society to free assembly and expression continues to be violated. Dialogue between political stakeholders continues, but the consensual agreements that have emerged from that dialogue have not been fully implemented. Opposition leaders have faced various charges and fear that they could be prevented from taking part in the elections. The perceived imbalance in the composition of provincial and communal electoral commissions and reports of irregularities in the voter registration process are a continued source of concern. These developments have the potential to call into question the credibility of the elections and the democratic process as a whole. If left unchecked, they could trigger electoral violence, with potentially devastating consequences for Burundi and the Great Lakes region.

63. To avoid such a scenario, I urge the Government to open political space and ensure a conducive environment for the holding of free, fair and inclusive elections. I also call upon CENI to do more to ensure inclusiveness and manage the electoral process with integrity, impartiality and independence. While I welcome recent steps by CENI to reach out to electoral stakeholders and address some of their concerns, it is critical that the Commission undertake effective measures to strengthen the public's confidence in the electoral process. Meanwhile, the opposition must play its part and remain engaged throughout the electoral process and use peaceful and democratic means to address any electoral disputes.

64. I am encouraged by the Government's commitment to continued dialogue and the resolve of the opposition not to boycott elections, unlike in 2010. I also remain

convinced that the period ahead represents an opportunity for all Burundians to contribute to the social and political transformation of their country. To achieve credible elections, the Government must help to ensure that the opposition and its leaders are able to fully participate in the elections and in the electoral process; that Burundian citizens, regardless of party affiliation, are free to exercise their civil and political rights, including their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; that State officials and security forces prevent violence and act impartially and in accordance with the law; and that any individuals committing unlawful acts of political violence are prosecuted without delay.

65. I am convinced that Burundians have all the necessary tools to hold peaceful, inclusive, free and credible elections. These include the Constitution, the Electoral Code, the electoral road map and the code of conduct for the elections. Now, it is the responsibility of all to fully implement the agreements that have been reached. The United Nations, especially MENUB, will lend its full support to the Government, CENI and electoral stakeholders in addressing issues of concern, to help to ensure that Burundi's democratic gains are irreversible. Beyond elections, it is also critical that Burundi focus on strengthening its democratic processes and broadening political space in the country after the polls. I appeal to the country's political class to rise above its partisan interests and build a political culture that is focused on issue-based politics and tackling the country's most urgent socioeconomic challenges as a way of overcoming existing divisions and lifting the country out of poverty.

66. Temporary spikes in crime, the proliferation of weapons, weak civilian oversight, the insufficient professionalization of the police and the continued involvement of the police in human rights violations remain sources of concern. Greater efforts are required to address those challenges in order to achieve long-term security and stability.

67. I take note of the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I hope that it will uncover the truth about past injustices and acts of violence, identify the perpetrators and victims, lead to the emergence of a consensual narrative about Burundi's conflicts and help to bring about genuine reconciliation. I am concerned that the establishment of the Commission was marred by boycotts and disagreements and that it does not enjoy the full confidence of all stakeholders. A faulty transitional justice process is more likely to harm than heal. It risks reopening wounds rather than providing an opportunity to overcome past injustices and build a common future. The Commission must therefore work hard to obtain the trust of all Burundians by carrying out its activities in a credible, impartial and independent manner.

68. A functioning democracy requires an independent justice system that ensures equal treatment under the law, protects a vibrant civil society and human rights defenders, ensures checks and balances and strengthens the public's trust in institutions. I remain concerned about the slow pace of judicial reform, the lack of progress in strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the prevailing culture of impunity. Allegations of judicial bias remain pervasive. Opposition leaders are often prosecuted swiftly and sentenced harshly, while cases against security forces receive far less investigative and judicial follow-up. While I commend recent efforts to competitively recruit magistrates, I call upon the Government to address impunity and accelerate the reform of the judiciary,

including by implementing the recommendations of the National Conference on Justice. I also urge the judiciary to follow international standards and practices, including proportionality in sentencing.

69. I am encouraged that there has been a recent and significant reduction in politically motivated acts of violence carried out by the ruling party's youth wing and a decline in extrajudicial killings and cases of torture and ill-treatment. The reduction in politically motivated violence may be a sign that recent appeals by Government officials and party leaders have been heeded. I urge the Government to carry out equally effective measures to substantially reduce the number of violations of the right to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly, which persist and represent a major obstacle to credible elections. I am encouraged by the provisional release of Pierre Claver Mbonimpa and call upon the Courts to ensure that Mr. Mbonimpa and previously convicted MSD members receive fair trials. I also commend the growing role played by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in leading a national effort to protect human rights and call upon the authorities to guarantee the Commission's independence.

70. The Government's agreement to continue hosting an OHCHR stand-alone office in Burundi is another positive development. I call upon Burundi's partners to provide additional support to this new office to ensure effective human rights reporting and monitoring throughout this critical electoral period. Some positive developments notwithstanding, the human rights situation in the country remains worrying. I call upon the Government to heed the advice of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, including his recommendation to adopt a law ensuring the legal status of human rights defenders.

71. The political situation in Burundi has, for good reason, dominated the public discourse in the country. However, Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and unemployment help to create an environment conducive to conflict. Burundi must make the improvement of livelihoods and the fight against poverty a priority. This is crucial to ensure that Burundians have a chance to live in dignity and that the absence of a peace dividend does not trigger renewed conflict. I call upon the country's political leaders to focus less on political manoeuvring and more on developing and implementing practical strategies to bring about sustained economic growth, development and youth empowerment in Burundi. Current efforts need to be strengthened and expanded with a view to tackling youth unemployment, rooting out corruption, strengthening good governance, attracting private capital and increasing investment in infrastructure, energy and agriculture. I appeal to the international community to fully support such efforts and to further strengthen its cooperation with the country over the medium term within the framework of the poverty reduction strategy paper and the cooperation framework led by the Peacebuilding Commission.

72. In the light of the many remaining challenges and the limited progress in achieving the benchmarks, the 2013 United Nations strategic assessment concluded that there is a continued need for a United Nations political presence throughout the 2015 elections. In accordance with the Government's wish to exert greater ownership, the Security Council requested BNUB to draw down by 31 December 2014. The primary responsibility for consolidating peace in the country has always rested with the Government. However, greater ownership of this process carries with it greater responsibility. The departure of BNUB is an important opportunity

for Burundians, especially the political class, to come together and tackle the many challenges they still face, so that current and future generations can enjoy a stable, peaceful, democratic, inclusive and prosperous Burundi. The manner in which Burundi deals with these challenges will be a litmus test of the maturity of its political system and the ability of institutions to foster peace, stability and democratic governance and to meet the socioeconomic needs of the people. I call upon regional leaders and organizations to play a more active role in assisting Burundi in tackling these remaining challenges.

73. The drawdown of BNUB marks an important transition in the Organization's engagement in Burundi. The United Nations will continue to assist and support the Government and people of Burundi in this new phase, through the United Nations country team and its regional offices, in coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission and relevant regional organizations. The United Nations will also accompany the country's electoral process in 2015 through MENUB.

74. I am grateful for the cooperation that the Government of Burundi has extended to BNUB. I also commend Burundi's development partners for their ongoing support to the country's socioeconomic development. I also wish to express my deep gratitude to all the United Nations personnel who have served and continue to serve in Burundi for their commitment and dedication to the consolidation of peace, democracy and stability in the country. Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to my Special Representative, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, for his outstanding leadership and contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in Burundi, especially during this crucial period in the country's history.

Annex

Benchmarks for the United Nations Office in Burundi pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1959 (2010) and 2027 (2011)

I. Democratic process

Benchmark: Continuing progress in the consolidation of democracy and the resolution of political differences through dialogue

Baseline through 2011: A spirit of dialogue and power-sharing underpinned the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi (hereinafter “Arusha accords”) and was enshrined in the Constitution of Burundi of 2005 and in the composition of the Government in 2005. Observers declared that the 2010 elections had been conducted in conformity with international norms, but they were boycotted by a number of opposition parties, whose leaders subsequently went into exile. The boycott continued to affect political life in Burundi in 2011, and tensions deepened between the Government and the Alliance démocratique pour le changement-Ikibiri (ADC-Ikibiri) grouping of extra-parliamentary opposition parties. Although both sides had confirmed their readiness to collaborate, political dialogue throughout 2011 remained stalled, and no formal meetings were held between the Government and the extra-parliamentary opposition parties.

Developments in 2012:^a 2012 was marked by an absence of dialogue and little progress in the preparations for the 2015 elections. The law on the status of the political opposition was passed without the consultation of all the parties. The Government established a new Independent National Electoral Commission (Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI)), with objections registered from opposition parties concerning its composition. Throughout 2012, various opposition party meetings were prohibited by authorities.

Developments in 2013:^b In 2013, Burundi made important strides towards a more open and inclusive political dialogue. Key opposition leaders returned from hiding or exile and were included in a series of meetings that led to the adoption of several consensual political agreements. However, the adoption of several restrictive laws and ongoing intimidation, harassment and violent attacks by young people affiliated with the ruling party, Imbonerakure, led to decreasing political space. Efforts by the ruling Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) to make controversial and wide-ranging changes to the Constitution increased political tensions.

^a The section summarizes the 2012 assessments of the benchmarks, as presented in the annex to the report of 18 January 2013 (S/2013/36).

^b The section summarizes the 2013 assessments of the benchmarks, as presented in the annex to the report of 20 January 2014 (S/2014/36).

*Indicators of progress**2014 assessments*

1.1. Increasingly democratic, accountable, representative and effective State institutions

- The number of question-and-answer sessions held with members of the Government in Parliament decreased to 6 in 2014 (35 in 2011, 24 in 2012 and 11 in 2013)
- Allegations by opposition parties that the Ministry of the Interior played a role in the fragmentation of opposition parties and that CENI is biased, exclusionary and not transparent in managing the electoral process; increased mistrust between the ruling party and the opposition

1.2. Continuing dialogue between political parties and the Government

- Major opposition parties continued to boycott the Permanent Forum for Dialogue among the Political Parties
- Eight official interactions took place between parties in power and the extra-parliamentary opposition
- Of 43 political parties, at least 14 have held meetings in various provinces since July. The number of parties that carried out activities increased. However, several parties, including the Mouvement pour la solidarité et le développement (MSD) and the Front pour la démocratie au Burundi (FRODEBU)-Nyakuri continued to experience harassment and disruption of their activities

1.3. Improved legal framework for electoral process management

- The new electoral law, which was promulgated by President Nkurunziza in June 2014, includes changes proposed in the electoral road map, such as the use of a single ballot, the combination of polls and the presence of agents of political parties and independent candidates at polling stations on polling days

1.4. Increasing institutional capacity to move towards the 2015 elections with appropriate international financial and technical support

- CENI established provincial and communal independent electoral commissions and conducted the voter registration process in November and December. However, opposition parties and civil society organizations raised serious concerns about the impartiality of CENI and the exclusion of "political actors" from those commissions

1.5. Increasing national ownership of the electoral process

- The Government allocated approximately 7 billion Burundi francs (\$4.5 million) to CENI for the elections

1.6. Political consensus among all stakeholders on movement towards the 2015 elections

- In June, political parties and actors signed a code of conduct for the elections
- In October, the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and the Government organized a third evaluation meeting of the implementation of the electoral road map towards free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in 2015
- The National Assembly was divided regarding the constitutional amendments sponsored by CNDD-FDD and narrowly rejected the draft amendments in March
- The Government remained committed to political dialogue and opposition parties and actors reinforced their determination to participate in the elections in 2015 despite reservations about the transparency and inclusivity of preparations for the electoral process

1.7. Increasing percentage of the population believing in the credibility of the elections

- Data not available in 2014

II. Security and stability

Benchmark: A strengthening and sustainable security structure enabling Burundi to respond effectively to domestic and international security concerns while respecting global norms and rights

Baseline through 2011: A significant number of small arms remained in circulation (100,000 households according to the Small Arms Survey in 2007), notwithstanding the first civilian disarmament campaign in 2009 and efforts made through the earlier disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The integration of former combatants into the Burundian National Defence Forces and the Burundian National Police, the rightsizing of both forces and their respect for ethnic proportionality greatly contributed to overall stability and security. However, human rights abuses by security forces in 2010 and 2011 highlighted the need for continued professionalization and enhanced civilian oversight.

Developments in 2012: No significant reduction in the circulation of small arms was noted; however, progress was made regarding the registration of the weapons of the national defence forces. The first draft of a national security strategy was prepared but not finalized. There were only minor reductions in the rightsizing of the security and national defence forces, and the National Security Council, which was created in 2012, was hampered by the absence of a clear strategy. Human rights violations by members of the national police continued to be a source of concern.

Developments in 2013: The impact of the second national voluntary disarmament campaign in reducing armed violence and curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Burundi was very limited. However, significant progress was made in registering and marking nearly all the weapons of the national police and the national defence forces. While the Government completed the strategic plan of the national police and adopted the national security strategy, civilian oversight in respect of the security and national defence forces remained weak.

<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>2014 assessments</i>
2.1. Progress made in civilian disarmament and in the management and control of small arms and light weapons	• The second national voluntary disarmament campaign collected 52 rifles, 504 grenades and 825 cartridges
2.2. Progress made in the rightsizing of the security and defence forces	• The national defence forces recruited 49 new officers, bringing the total number to approximately 26,000 (target 25,000). Since the police did not undertake a recruitment exercise in 2014, its strength remained at approximately 16,000 (target 15,000)
2.3. Increasing civilian oversight in respect of the security and defence forces in compliance with the current constitution, laws and regulations	• BNUB continued to support the permanent secretariat of the National Security Council, including in implementing the national security strategy • The National Security Council met three times in 2014
2.4. Increasing professionalization of the security and defence forces	• The Independent National Commission on Human Rights and BNUB trained and certified 15 military, 10 police and 10 intelligence officers as human rights trainers
2.5. Increasing confidence of the population in the service delivery of the security and defence forces	• Data not available in 2014

III. Transitional justice

Benchmark: Continuing progress in transitional justice to advance victims' rights, the fight against impunity and national reconciliation

Baseline through 2011: Transitional justice is the major remaining feature of the Arusha accords for which implementation lagged. Following broad national consultations in 2009 and 2010 and extensive work undertaken by a Government technical committee, a new draft law on the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission was presented to Parliament in October 2011.

Developments in 2012: A revised draft law on the truth and reconciliation commission was submitted to Parliament in December. The law was not adopted. No progress was achieved regarding all other indicators on transnational justice in 2012.

Developments in 2013: The draft law on the truth and reconciliation commission was debated in the Justice and Human Rights Commission of the National Assembly. The law was not adopted, however, owing to disagreements between CNDD-FDD and the Union pour le progrès national (UPRONA) and FRODEBU-Nyakuri parties.

Indicators of progress

2014 assessments

3.1. Establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission in line with the 2009 national consultations, the work of the technical committee of 2011, international standards and applicable legal instruments	• The draft bill on the truth and reconciliation commission submitted by the Government in December 2012 was debated and adopted by Parliament in April. In May 2014, President Nkurunziza promulgated the law • UPRONA and FRODEBU-Nyakuri boycotted the vote on the grounds that the selection process of the members and the bureau of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was unlikely to guarantee its independence and that the law did not establish a judicial mechanism • Leading opposition parties boycotted the selection process of new commissioners • In December, the National Assembly elected the 11 members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
3.2. Establishment of a special tribunal in line with the 2009 national consultations, the work of the technical committee of 2011, international standards and applicable legal instruments	• The law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission does not contain any provisions to establish a special tribunal
3.3. Existence of a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of recommendations of a truth and reconciliation commission	• No progress made in 2014
3.4. Increasing ability of the political leadership to bring about reconciliation between the victims and perpetrators of past crimes	• No progress made in 2014
3.5. Increasing level of satisfaction with the transitional justice process	• Not applicable in 2014
3.6. Increasing percentage of the population believing that reconciliation has been achieved	• Data not available in 2014

IV. Governance and institution-building

Benchmark: Increasing State authority through legitimate, democratic, accountable and effective institutions

Baseline through 2011: Following the adoption of the 2005 Constitution, key new institutions envisaged have successively been established, including the National Communications Council (2007), the National Security Council (2008), the Permanent Forum for Dialogue among the Political Parties (2010) and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (2011). In 2011, with assistance from the United Nations and other partners, Burundi developed a number of important strategies reflecting national governance priorities, including the national strategy on good governance and the fight against corruption. The establishment of the Anti-corruption Brigade (2006), the Anti-corruption Court (2006), the Office of the Ombudsman (2011) and the Burundi Revenue Authority (2011) were important institutional developments to enhance the efficiency and accountability of the Government. While corruption remained a serious concern, the beginnings of sustained improvement were evident.

Developments in 2012: 2012 saw little progress in the implementation of the national strategy on good governance and the fight against corruption. The amount of revenue collected by the Burundi Revenue Authority increased, and Burundi significantly improved its ranking in the World Bank's "ease of doing business index". The implementation of the national programme for the reform of the administration, adopted in April 2012, proved challenging.

Developments in 2013: While Burundi improved its ranking in the World Bank's "ease of doing business index" for the third time in a row, corruption in the country remained widespread. Despite President Nkurunziza's zero tolerance policy against corruption, Burundi moved from being the least corrupt country in East Africa to the second most corrupt.

Indicators of progress

2014 assessments

4.1. Increasing proportion of seats held by women in Parliament and in elected and appointed bodies at all levels

- As in 2013, 32 per cent of National Assembly members, 46 per cent of Senate members, 35 per cent of ministers, 6 per cent of provincial governors and 33 per cent of communal administrators were women

4.2. Decreasing corruption in the public and private sectors

- Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Burundi as the 159th most corrupt country out of 175 (157th in 2013)
- The Anti-corruption Brigade transmitted 260 complaints of corruption to the Procureur général in 2014 (247 in 2013)
- The Anti-corruption Court registered 172 cases in 2014 (205 in 2013). The Court delivered sentences for 217 cases in 2014 (169 in 2013)

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| 4.3. Increasingly transparent, accountable and efficient national institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the Ombudsman received 191 complaints in 2014 (as at 31 October) (131 in 2013) and dealt with 54 cases (140 in 2013). The Court of Audit (Cour des comptes) carried out an audit of all communes to help to establish a culture of accountability at the local level |
| 4.4. Progress made in the quality of public administration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tax revenue collected by the Burundi Revenue Authority in 2014 was 630 billion Burundi francs, compared with 505 billion Burundi francs in 2013 |

V. Rule of law

Benchmark: An increasingly independent, accessible and credible justice system upholding human rights

Baseline through 2011: In 2011, the Ministry of Justice sectorial policy for the period 2011-2015 was developed, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening the independence of the judiciary, enhancing good governance in the justice sector, making justice available to all and improving criminal justice. However, the document did not address reforms concerning the status of magistrates.

Developments in 2012: Implementation of the Ministry of Justice sectorial policy for the period 2011-2015 commenced in 2012. A national preparatory commission was set up to organize the National Conference on Justice (Etats généraux de la justice) while workshops were carried out throughout the country to collect the views of stakeholders on areas in need of reform. Following the implementation of a presidential pardon and release on parole, the total prison population decreased by 29.7 per cent in 2012. A draft code on judicial ethics was prepared but not adopted, and magistrates were not recruited through a competitive examination as required by law.

Developments in 2013: There were some positive developments in the justice sector, notably the adoption of new court regulations and the promulgation of a new criminal procedure code that is in conformity with international standards. At the same time, progress in establishing an independent judiciary remained slow. While the National Conference on Justice was finally held, its recommendations to strengthen the independence of the judiciary were not adopted. In addition, magistrates still were not recruited through a competitive examination as required by law.

Indicators of progress

2014 assessments

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| 5.1. Decreasing ratio of pretrial detainees to the overall prison population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ratio of pretrial detainees to the overall prison population increased slightly from 51 per cent in 2013 to 54 per cent in 2014 • The overall prison population decreased by 8.5 per cent in 2014 mainly owing to a presidential pardon in June and the conditional release of certain categories of prisoners |
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5.2. Increasing proportion of law enforcement officials trained in rules of conduct concerning proportional use of force, arrest, interrogation, detention or punishment	• 50 law enforcement and intelligence officials were trained as trainers on human rights and international humanitarian law
5.3. Increasingly simple and systematic access to the results of commissions of inquiry for those authorized	• There was no commission of inquiry in 2014
5.4. Increasing number of criminals brought to justice	• Data not available in 2014
5.5. Improving the management of prisons, to better comply with human rights standards	• The prison occupancy rate slightly decreased from 188 per cent in 2013 to 186 per cent in 2014
5.6. Progress made in the adoption and implementation of legislation on magistrates, in the professionalization of magistrates and in the organization and effectiveness of the Supreme Council of Magistrates	• There was no progress regarding the reform of the status of magistrates and the High Council of Magistrates • The first ever competitive examination process for the selection of aspiring magistrates took place in June and July. Out of a total of 732 candidates who sat the exam, 76 were selected • A strategic plan on preventing and combating corruption and other abuses in the justice sector was completed in October
5.7. Progress made in the independence of the judiciary	• The follow-up committee to the National Conference on Justice was established by the Minister of Justice but its inclusivity was questioned by national and international stakeholders • The working group on the independence of the judiciary did not meet in 2014 • Opposition parties alleged politically motivated trials, violations of due process and disproportionate sentencing against leaders and members of opposition parties
5.8. Increasing percentage of the population expressing confidence in the judicial system	• Data not available in 2014

VI. Human rights

Benchmark: A deepening culture of protection and the promotion of human rights in Burundi

Baseline through 2011: The aftermath of the 2010 elections saw a marked increase in serious human rights violations, in many cases reportedly perpetrated by members of the security or national defence forces. In 2010, BNUB/the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented 40 cases of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions and/or politically motivated killings and 30 cases of torture (61 and 36 cases, respectively, in 2011). The establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in 2011 was an important step but concerns about case follow-up remained.

Developments in 2012: The human rights situation in 2012 was characterized by a significant decrease in the number of extrajudicial executions documented by BNUB (30 compared with 61 in 2011), of which only four were likely to have been politically motivated (about 20 in 2011). However, perpetrators in only 6 of the 30 cases were arrested and tried in a court of law, all resulting in convictions. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights opened three regional offices and investigated 480 cases, compared with only 107 in 2011.

Developments in 2013: The human rights situation in Burundi remained a cause for concern. Cases of extrajudicial killings, the adoption of restrictive laws and acts of intimidation, harassment and violence allegedly committed by members of Imbonerakure further shrank the political space available for opposition parties, the media and civil society.

Indicators of progress

2014 assessments

6.1. Increasing proportion of human rights violations — including cases of disappearances and extrajudicial killings — investigated by the judiciary, and perpetrators arrested, judged and/or serving sentences

- Of the seven documented cases of extrajudicial executions in 2014 (35 in 2013), four are under investigation by the judiciary and three resulted in convictions
- Of the 35 cases of extrajudicial executions documented by BNUB in 2013, 27 are under investigation by the judicial authorities. Six of those have resulted in convictions
- Of the 67 cases of torture and ill-treatment in 2014, 17 are under investigation. None of the perpetrators have been tried in a court of law
- Of the 125 documented cases of torture and ill-treatment in 2013, 89 have been investigated by the police and the judicial authorities, resulting in three convictions

6.2. Increasing frequency and timeliness of reports submitted to the relevant bodies

- Burundi was examined by the Human Rights Committee in October 2014 and by the Committee against Torture in November 2014. No progress was registered regarding the establishment of a national preventive mechanism as prescribed by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which Burundi ratified in September 2013

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| <p>6.3. Decreasing instances of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment perpetrated by an agent of the State or any other person acting under Government authority or with its complicity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BNUB documented 67 cases of torture and ill-treatment in 2014 (125 in 2013) |
| <p>6.4. Increasing effectiveness of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, including through the establishment of a monitoring network on human rights, by civil society organizations, which contributes to the activities of the Commission</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent National Commission on Human Rights presented its annual report in August. Of the 251 cases registered, 106 were concluded and 137 are still under investigation. The remaining eight cases were not human right violations. On 20 August, two new commissioners were elected to replace the two whose terms had expired in June |
| <p>6.5. Rolling adoption of priority international and regional human rights instruments and increasing conformity of national human rights instruments with relevant international and regional instruments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress in 2014 |
| <p>6.6. Strengthening of structures dealing with the protection of vulnerable groups</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data not available in 2014 |
| <p>6.7. Progress made in ensuring freedom of the media and civil society</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten cases of violation of freedom of the press were documented by BNUB in 2014 (five in 2013) |

VII. Social and economic development

Benchmark: Improving living standards of the population, delivery of basic services to the most vulnerable and conditions for economic recovery

Baseline through 2011: Despite the Government's efforts, Burundi suffered from widespread poverty, land scarcity combined with high population density, food insecurity and high youth unemployment. Although Burundi's human development index has constantly increased since 2000, the country still ranked 185th of 187 countries in 2011.

Developments in 2012: Burundi's socioeconomic challenges remained unchanged. Its human development index increased from 0.316 in 2011 to 0.355 in 2012, moving the country from 185th place in 2011 to 172nd place (out of 186 countries) in 2012.

Developments in 2013: Despite Government efforts to improve the socioeconomic situation of the country, widespread poverty, land scarcity, food insecurity and high youth unemployment remained prevalent. Burundi continued to be one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking last on the 2013 Global Hunger Index and 178th out of 187 countries on the human development index.

<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>2014 assessments</i>
8.1. Decreasing proportion of the population living on less than \$1.25 per day	• The poverty rate was 67 per cent in 2006 (no new data available for 2014) • Burundi ranks last on the 2014 Global Hunger Index (same as in 2013)
8.2. Improving enrolment and completion ratios in primary education	• In 2013/14, primary school net enrolment was 96 per cent (same as in 2010/11; no data available for the period 2011-2013)
8.3. Decreasing number of internally displaced persons	• The number of internally displaced persons remained stable in 2014 (approximately 78,000)
8.4. Increasing proportion of children aged 12-23 months immunized against contagious diseases	• In 2013, 96 per cent of children were completely vaccinated (no new data available for 2014)
8.5. Increasing proportion of the population with access to potable water and electricity	• In 2008, access to electricity was 4.8 per cent (no new data available for 2014)
8.6. Improving youth employment rate	• Youth unemployment is estimated to be very high (no concrete data available)
8.7. Increasing number of youth and women with access to basic social services	• Data not available in 2014
8.8. Improving legislative and regulatory environment favouring business and investment	• Burundi ranked 152nd of 189 countries in the World Bank's 2014 "ease of doing business index"
8.9. Improving socioeconomic situation of refugees, repatriated persons and internally displaced persons	• Data not available in 2014
8.10. Increasing percentage of the population feeling that the standard of living is rising	• Data not available in 2014



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2157 (2014), in which the Council requested me to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), to ensure it is aligned with the priorities identified by the legitimate democratic Government. In addition to presenting the main findings and recommendations of the review, the report provides an update on key political, security, human rights, socioeconomic and humanitarian developments since my update of 11 November 2014 (S/2014/805). It also provides information on the status of implementation of resolution 2157 (2014) since my report of 12 May 2014 (S/2014/333).

II. Major developments in Guinea-Bissau

A. Political developments

2. The political situation in Guinea-Bissau remained stable during the period under review, with the Government focused on implementing its immediate priorities and on preparing for the partner round table scheduled for 26 March 2015.

3. On 11 November, the National Assembly took two important decisions aimed at implementing its reform programme. First, it elected Francisco Benante as Inspector-General for the Fight against Corruption and Antonio Jesus Simões Mendes and Pedro Morato Milaco as Deputy Inspectors. The appointments were a positive signal that the Government is determined to tackle corruption. Second, the National Assembly adopted a resolution reactivating the ad hoc Commission for Constitutional Review established in 2010. The Commission will be chaired by the President of the National Assembly, Cipriano Cassamá, and will include Members of Parliament from all political parties represented in the National Assembly. In order to ensure broad participation in the process, the Commission will also include representatives from civil society and religious groups, as well as from the Faculty of Law of Amílcar Cabral University.



4. The Government continued to take steps to reform the security sector. On 13 November, it authorized the Minister of Defence to establish a committee to review the list of military personnel to be demobilized through retirement. The committee, which includes officials from both the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces, has commenced its review of the criteria and lists for security personnel who will be demobilized and receive a pension from a planned special pension fund.

B. Security situation

5. The overall security situation in Guinea-Bissau remained stable during the reporting period. The new Chief of General Staff of the armed forces, Lieutenant-General Biagué Na N'tan, has gradually reshuffled the commanding officers of various military units since his appointment on 17 September. On 17 November, the President of Guinea-Bissau, José Mário Vaz, appointed Brigadier-General Antero João Correia, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, as the new Director General of the State Information and Security Services. He had served as the Public Order Police Commissioner-General before the coup d'état of April 2012.

6. Following a series of accidents involving unexploded remnants of war, as well as a request from the Ministry of Defence for UNIOGBIS support in the destruction of a stock of ageing munitions, an expert from the Mine Action Service of the United Nations was deployed to Guinea-Bissau from 4 to 15 November to assess the situation and make recommendations for United Nations support. The expert met with personnel from the armed forces, the Ministries of Defence and the Interior and non-governmental organizations engaged in demining. In his report, he recommended that UNIOGBIS assist in mobilizing resources from the international community to enable national non-governmental organizations to resume mine-clearance activities. He also recommended that UNIOGBIS engage with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to secure the military's cooperation and support for an ammunition destruction programme.

C. Socioeconomic and humanitarian situation

7. Although the socioeconomic situation in Guinea-Bissau remains fragile, there have been some encouraging signs since the new Government was inaugurated in July. The salaries of public servants are being paid, with donor support, and there have been improvements in the supply of electricity and water, mainly in Bissau. On 9 December, the National Assembly unanimously approved a national general budget for 2015 in the amount of 148,000,000,000 CFA francs (approximately \$287,380,000). A deficit of 57,000,000,000 CFA francs (approximately \$110,680,000) will be covered by external funding. In September, the International Monetary Fund forecast a real gross domestic product growth rate of 2.5 per cent in 2014, based on the gradual resumption of investments after the return to constitutional order.

8. Cashew nuts continue to be the main export of Guinea-Bissau and one of the main sources of income for many families, especially in rural areas. According to provisional government data, as at 15 September Guinea-Bissau had exported

127,900 tons of cashew nuts in 2014, out of an export goal of 140,000 tons, at an average price of \$997 per ton.

9. During the reporting period, some international partners and financial institutions pledged commitments to support the new authorities. On 13 November, the West African Economic and Monetary Union committed 510 million CFA francs (about \$968,733) for the construction of a cattle market in Bigene, Cacheu region. On 18 November, during the meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, which was held in New York, the European Union announced a commitment of 20 million euros. On 4 December, the Government signed an agreement with the World Bank to receive funding in the amount of \$4.85 million as direct budgetary support and \$2.15 million as support for World Food Programme activities in Guinea-Bissau.

10. No suspected cases of the Ebola virus disease have been reported in Guinea-Bissau to date. An inter-agency mission led by the World Health Organization (WHO) visited Guinea-Bissau from 14 to 20 November to assess the status of Ebola preparedness of the country. The mission concluded that Guinea-Bissau had completed 51 per cent of the WHO Ebola virus disease preparedness checklist on core principles, standards, capacities and practices for Ebola prevention and response.

11. On 2 December, the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, Simões Pereira, announced the reopening of the country's border with Guinea. The border had been closed since 14 August as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of Ebola into Guinea-Bissau. The decision is significant for cross-border trade, especially for the communities directly involved.

D. Human rights situation

12. During the reporting period, no gross human rights violation was registered in Guinea-Bissau. Very little progress was made, however, in the investigation of, and in establishing accountability for, past serious human rights violations. One exception was the reopening by the Office of the Prosecutor-General for the investigation into the beating of former Transitional Minister of State for Transport and Communication Orlando Mendes Viegas, which took place on 6 November 2013. On 5 November, the Office of the Prosecutor General held a hearing to question three suspects in relation to the case.

III. Status of implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

A. Supporting an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to facilitate democratic governance

13. The National Assembly has commenced efforts to reactivate the national dialogue and reconciliation process. From 31 October to 2 November, UNIOGBIS supported the organization of a three-day retreat of the Organising Commission of the National Conference on Reconciliation to review reports on the work that had

been accomplished before its activities were suspended in December 2011. Participants identified a number of activities to be carried out in order to hold a national conference on reconciliation in 2015. The Commission is expected to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the honorary committee for endorsement. The honorary committee is composed of the President of Guinea-Bissau, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, religious leaders and representatives of international organizations.

B. Assisting in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of State organs to function effectively and constitutionally

14. During the period under review, UNIOGBIS provided support to the National Assembly for the organization of two training sessions, held from 21 to 25 July and from 26 to 29 August, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the 102 newly elected Members of Parliament. The training helped participants to better understand their role and responsibilities as outlined in the national Constitution. UNIOGBIS also provided training on human rights and gender mainstreaming to the parliamentarians. Similarly, from 5 to 7 November, UNIOGBIS supported the National Assembly in organizing a three-day workshop to strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament in State budget analysis and parliamentary control of the actions of the Government.

C. Providing strategic and technical advice and support for the establishment of effective and efficient law enforcement and criminal justice and penitentiary systems capable of maintaining public security and combating impunity while respecting international human rights and fundamental freedoms

15. The United Nations continued to play a coordinating role in the area of police, justice and corrections through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections. In May and June, UNIOGBIS carried out assessments of the capacities of the Public Order Police, the Judiciary Police and the National Guard. The assessments established a baseline understanding of the status of security institutions in the areas of logistics, policy, procedures, training and inter-agency coordination. The assessments will assist in planning capacity-building projects. In the same vein, from 16 June to 3 July, UNIOGBIS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Children's Fund carried out six border post assessments to gather information on conditions in the field, to establish a baseline for the design of future projects. The assessments showed that personnel at border posts cannot perform their duties effectively owing to poor training and knowledge of applicable national laws and because they lack proper office facilities and equipment.

16. Between May and November, with the participation of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNIOGBIS, the Superior Council for Policing and Internal Security Coordination, which comprises the heads of police institutions, held six meetings to strengthen coordination, information-sharing and joint security analysis among the various policing institutions.

UNIOGBIS managed the agenda and performed the function of the secretariat for the meetings.

17. Between 3 and 8 July, with the financial support of the Peacebuilding Fund, UNIOGBIS carried out specialized training on anti-riot techniques for 60 officers, including two women, from the Rapid Intervention Unit of the Public Order Police. UNIOGBIS also donated 50 sets of defensive equipment (shields, helmets and batons) for crowd control.

18. The United Nations continued to support the national authorities in addressing issues related to the right to health and the rights of persons deprived of their liberty. Between 1 May and 30 November, the centres for access to justice provided support to more than 1,120 beneficiaries (22 per cent of whom were women) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNIOGBIS further supported the Ministry of Justice in drafting internal procedures for prisons to ensure compliance with national law and international instruments relating to sentenced prisoners and other detainees. Early in September, UNIOGBIS supported the distribution to prison guards and others concerned with detention-related issues of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders.

19. Between 14 and 16 October, UNIOGBIS facilitated and funded a workshop on penitentiary administration and the rule of law organized by the Prison Directorate of the Ministry of Justice. In total, 25 prison directors, social workers and prison staff, including four women, participated in the workshop, the purpose of which was to increase the knowledge and skills of prison staff in the areas of penitentiary administration and the rule of law in accordance with international standards. Areas covered in the workshop included national and international norms for the treatment of prisoners, alternatives to detention and social rehabilitation.

20. With the support of UNDP, on 15 July the National Judicial Training Centre launched a six-week capacity development programme in the areas of civil and criminal law for 16 magistrates, judges and prosecutors. The officials were all assigned to sectoral and regional courts. In terms of justice service delivery in remote areas, UNDP assisted the Ministries of Justice and of Public Works in conducting feasibility studies in the Cacheu and Oio regions to identify suitable sites on which to construct sectoral courts. The construction of those courts in both regions started in December.

21. Between 28 and 30 October, the Ministry of Justice, with the support of UNIOGBIS, organized the fourth National Forum on Criminal Justice. Participants in the Forum recommended that a comprehensive review of the relevant criminal codes be conducted and that an interministerial commission be established to study the national legal framework governing military justice with a view to harmonizing it with the Constitution, international norms and human rights standards.

D. Providing strategic and technical advice and support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including in coordination with the Economic Community of West African States and its mission in Guinea-Bissau, in implementing the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, as well as developing civilian and military justice systems that are compliant with international standards

22. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS continued to coordinate with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the national authorities with respect to the overall reform of the defence and security sector in accordance with Security Council resolution 2151 (2014).

23. On 15 September, the ECOWAS-Guinea-Bissau joint cell in the Permanent Secretariat of the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee presented to the Minister of Defence a draft proposal for retirement packages for military and police personnel. The draft indicates the number of military and police beneficiaries and provides details on their future benefits, including housing, medical and transportation benefits, based on their rank and length of service. It reiterates earlier plans that a one-time lump-sum payment be made on retirement, followed by a monthly pension over a five-year period. The proposal includes a list of 753 personnel to be retired in the first of five batches over a five-year period. The total number of retirees in all five batches will be 2,282 personnel. UNIOGBIS is a member of the Permanent Secretariat.

E. Assisting national authorities to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

24. The efforts of UNIOGBIS and UNODC to improve the operational capacity and efficiency of the national investigating law enforcement agencies and to align them with international standards continued during the reporting period. Since July, a UNODC consultant has been co-located with UNIOGBIS to facilitate the full operationalization of the Transnational Crime Unit of Guinea-Bissau within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative. Together with UNIOGBIS, the consultant facilitated several training courses for Unit personnel. Between 15 and 26 September, 20 police officers, including four women, working in the Unit and in other law enforcement agencies received advanced computer training. Between 22 and 26 September, 10 police officers from the Unit and the Judiciary Police were trained in crime analysis techniques. From 27 October to 7 November, training aimed at improving crime analysis in relation to drug trafficking and money-laundering, particularly in the collection, organization, collation, dissemination and re-evaluation of data, was provided to 20 law enforcement officers, including four women.

25. Between 19 June and 21 November, the Judiciary Police and the Transnational Crime Unit carried out four operations that resulted in the arrest of six individuals and the seizure of 3 kg of cocaine and 57 kg of marijuana. On 14 October, the Ministry of Justice approved three standard operating procedures for the Unit and the Judiciary Police on the destruction of seized drugs, data analysis for criminal investigation and the handling of informants. On 18 November, the Government

made available a building that will host the office of the Unit. The Public Order Police, the Judicial Police, the Customs and the National Guard will be co-located in that building.

26. Between 24 and 27 October, UNODC and UNIOGBIS supported the organization of a meeting on organized crime and drug trafficking. The meeting, which was held at the invitation of the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly, was attended by over 100 participants from the National Assembly and the Government. The participants discussed drug trafficking, corruption, money-laundering and terrorism, as well as how to strengthen the criminal justice system in order to fight these crimes in Guinea-Bissau. At the end of the meeting, participants adopted a political declaration emphasizing the commitment of the National Assembly and the Government to work together to address the threats posed by organized crime to peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau.

F. Assisting national authorities in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as undertaking human rights monitoring and reporting activities

27. On 4 and 5 June, UNIOGBIS supported the celebration of International Children's Day for 150 children in six schools in the region of Bafatá. The events included the presentation of films and discussions on the rights to education, health and protection from violence and abuse.

28. From 7 to 11 July and from 27 to 31 October, the Judicial Training Centre conducted, with the support of UNIOGBIS, the second and third phases of a series of one-week trainings on human rights in the administration of justice. Participants included judicial and law enforcement officials based in Bissau and the regions. The training focused on international principles related to the independence and impartiality of judicial actors, the rights and protection of persons deprived of liberty, the application of preventive detention and the right to due process and a fair trial.

29. From 11 to 14 August, UNIOGBIS held human rights seminars for 30 members of the security forces in regions of Bafatá and Gabú. The training focused on international and national human rights laws, in particular the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the national minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, the law on female genital mutilation (adopted in January 2014) and the laws on domestic violence and human trafficking.

G. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008)

30. Between 16 and 25 June, UNIOGBIS and the Islamic Council of Guinea-Bissau finalized a report on the roles of men and women in the Council's leadership and the role of women in mediation and conflict resolution in Guinea-Bissau. The report included the following recommendations: pursuing efforts to increase capacity-building for both men and women on gender and women's rights as they relate to Islam; identifying women leaders within the Council and empowering them

as mediators, based on traditional experience and international human rights instruments; and bringing women in the law enforcement sector and women leaders from the Council together to work on conflict resolution. The translated version of the report will be prepared and provided by UNIOGBIS to partners and the Council for further dissemination.

31. On 10 September, UNIOGBIS, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion organized a workshop for journalists, civil servants and representatives of women's organizations to raise awareness of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the National Action Plan on Gender. The workshop aimed at mobilizing the Government to mainstream gender perspectives into all areas of its work and to build national capacity within the public sector to review the Action Plan. The participants recommended reviewing the Action Plan and its implementation strategy, amending the electoral law in order to increase women's political participation and appointing gender focal points in government line ministries. They also requested the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion to work towards obtaining funds for the implementation of the Action Plan and to facilitate regional consultations on gender.

32. On 28 and 29 October, the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion, the ECOWAS Women, Peace and Security Network and UNIOGBIS organized a two-day workshop in Canchungo, Cacheu region, for 50 women from civil society organizations, public administration entities and political parties. The workshop sought to raise awareness of the need to amend legislation, including the Constitution, to align it with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). At the end of the meeting, the participants issued a declaration requesting the urgent adoption of measures on quotas for women, both in the electoral law and in the law on political parties, a review of the policy document on the reform of the defence and security sectors to ensure that it explicitly includes gender issues and the integration of human rights and gender equality in the national education curriculum to combat discrimination and the high prevalence of domestic violence against women.

H. Working with the Peacebuilding Commission in support of the peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau

33. On 14 August, the Peacebuilding Fund allocated \$500,000 in support of a UNODC project aimed at reinforcing the electronic information-sharing capacity of national law enforcement agencies, including the Transnational Crime Unit.

34. The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and of the Commission's country-specific configuration for Guinea-Bissau, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, visited Guinea-Bissau on 29 and 30 October to attend the thirteenth special session of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). Mr. Patriota met with the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, the Minister for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministers of Defence and of Foreign Affairs, my Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau, the ambassadors of Angola and the ECOWAS Commission. Discussions held during the various meetings focused on how the Peacebuilding Commission could best assist Guinea-Bissau in promoting the country internationally, support the new authorities to implement key reforms, notably in the security sector, advance the Government's

priorities, and support the mobilization of resources, with particular emphasis on the partner round table.

I. Contributing to the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance, including for the implementation of the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, and enhancing cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and other partners in support of the restoration and maintenance of constitutional order and the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau

35. My Special Representative has been actively working to ensure continued, effective coordination among international partners. He has started convening monthly coordination meetings with international partners in Bissau. On 14 and 24 November, he met with the secretariats of the International Organisation of La Francophonie in Paris and of CPLP in Lisbon. While raising awareness of the need for continued engagement in Guinea-Bissau, he also advocated enhanced support for the efforts of the Government to carry out State reforms, in particular in the defence, security and justice sectors. He further emphasized the importance of harmonizing the positions of all international partners and ensuring coordination of efforts.

36. On 18 November, the International Contact Group for Guinea-Bissau held its tenth meeting in New York, after two years of inactivity. At the meeting, which was attended by my Special Representative and key bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea-Bissau, participants welcomed the progress made in Guinea-Bissau, including the strong commitment of the new authorities to commence implementing reforms in the areas of public administration, justice, education, public services and the defence and security sector. It also expressed strong support for a continued UNIOGBIS and ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) presence in the country and called on all international partners to actively participate in the upcoming donor conference.

IV. Cross-cutting issues

A. Integration of the United Nations system

37. During the reporting period, the senior leadership of the United Nations country team and UNIOGBIS adopted a road map for the preparation of a new integrated strategic framework (the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2020) that will be aligned with the updated national development plan to be presented to the partner round table. It is expected that the framework will be finalized and endorsed at the country level by the end of February 2015.

Public information

38. During the reporting period, media activities were centred around a project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund on strengthening the media's watchdog role in a

democratic society. UNIOGBIS raised awareness of rule of law, human rights and gender issues through national radio programmes and the main weekly newspapers. From October to December, it organized seminars on institution-building in São Domingos, Bafatá, Buba and Bissau for some 86 media directors and editors, including the press unit of the armed forces, governmental spokespersons and representatives of civil society. UNIOGBIS also conducted a public awareness campaign in support of the Government's Ebola task force.

B. Staff safety and security

39. During the period under review, no direct threats were made against United Nations staff. Three burglaries at United Nations residences were reported, however. In the light of recent incidents involving the accidental explosion of remnants of war, United Nations staff have been advised of the risks and cautioned to be alert when working in the field.

V. Main findings of the strategic assessment on Guinea-Bissau

40. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2157 (2014), I dispatched a strategic assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau from 3 to 14 November to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandate of UNIOGBIS and ensure that it is aligned with the priorities identified by the legitimate, democratic Government. Led by the Department of Political Affairs, the mission consisted of representatives from UNIOGBIS, the United Nations country team, UNDP (representing the United Nations Development Group), the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNODC, the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Safety and Security.

41. The mission consulted with a broad array of interlocutors and enjoyed the full cooperation of the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. It met with national authorities, including the President, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly, as well as ministers and secretaries of State from all relevant ministries. Meetings were also held with representatives of other State institutions, including the Supreme Court, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Military Tribunal and security and law enforcement agencies. The mission consulted with political parties, women's associations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, youth representatives and media organizations, and visited the UNIOGBIS regional office in Bafatá to survey United Nations-supported projects and to engage with interlocutors in the region. Throughout the visit, the mission consulted with international partners engaged in Guinea-Bissau.

A. Context and main factors of instability

42. The restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau has introduced a period of hope. The elections in April and May were widely deemed to have been free, fair and transparent. The country has a legitimate, competent and inclusive Government. In meetings with the strategic assessment mission, the President, the

Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly elaborated broadly consistent views regarding the key priorities of the country and the vision for its future. As a manifestation of this consensus, the government priority plan was approved unanimously by the National Assembly in September. The Prime Minister is working to create a collaborative political environment and has included several individuals from opposition parties and civil society in his Government in an attempt to build trust and bolster stability. The appointment of five women ministers, out of 16, including for the key Ministries of Defence and of Justice, is also a sign of political will for inclusive governance.

43. The Government has acted quickly, with the help of partners, to demonstrate the dividends of the restoration of constitutional order, notably by paying most salary arrears in the public service and by working to increase the delivery of public utilities to the population. Initial steps have been taken to reform the armed forces, most notably the dismissal of its Chief of General Staff, General Antonio Indjai, on 15 September. The Government has established a national technical commission in the Prime Minister's office to review the commitments made by the former transitional Government, with particular focus on the extraction of natural resources. The donor conference planned for 26 March 2015 will be decisive for moving forward on a number of governmental priorities and start the long-term work of stabilizing the country in order to focus on sustainable development.

44. The Government has shown strong political will to implement necessary reforms and, in doing so, is already encountering signs of resistance. The State-building exercise in Guinea-Bissau is in its very initial stages. The country faces extreme levels of poverty and the social contract is weak. A constructive relationship between the President, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly will continue to be essential as they push forward the necessary reforms.

45. Meanwhile, the potential for relapse into instability and unconstitutionality will remain high as long as the root causes remain unaddressed. Since its independence in 1974, the country has never seen a Government complete its term in office. Coups d'état took place in 1980, 1998-1999, 2003 and 2012, attempted coups took place in 1985 and 1993, and alleged attempts took place in 2009, 2011 and 2012. The political instability in the country has been accompanied by repeated gross violations of human rights, including politically motivated assassinations, abductions, cases of torture, arbitrary arrests, detentions of political opponents and civil society representatives, and restrictions on the freedom of expression and assembly.

46. Peace and security issues in Guinea-Bissau are strongly connected with development challenges. The root causes of instability in the country lie in a complex interrelation of four main factors: (a) political-military dynamics; (b) ineffective State institutions and the absence of rule of law; (c) poverty and lack of access to basic services (particularly for women and youth); and (d) impunity and human rights violations.

Political-military dynamics

47. The armed forces have had a disproportionate influence on civilian and political life and have been able to shift political alliances, influence decision-making and topple democratically elected Governments. The power of the military

stems in part from a failure to convert the armed wing of the anti-colonial liberation movement, the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces, into a regular professional army after independence in 1974. This allowed military commanders to continue influencing political decision-making structures. It also contributed to a dynamic in which disaffected members of the political elite, in order to bolster their own positions and agendas, made alliances of convenience with the armed forces. As a consequence, there has been very limited civilian oversight of military forces and Guinea-Bissau continues to be characterized by an intricate web of relationships between the political, business and military spheres. In spite of the very positive change brought about by the elections, the rather small group exerting influence on key State functions still includes some who are involved in corruption and illicit activities, including human and drug trafficking.

48. The long-standing paucity of political and social dialogue among the people, political actors and the army has exacerbated the divides within society. There are indications that political factions have begun to instrumentalize tribal issues to their advantage, which could deepen ethnic divides. More specifically, it appears that the Balanta community, which is dominant in the armed forces, has had limited access to socioeconomic opportunities outside the armed forces; addressing this matter should be an important component of any reform of the security sector. With less than 8 per cent of women in the armed forces, and even fewer in positions of authority, as well as inadequate conditions (e.g. lack of separate barracks and equipment), the army is not equipped to attract more female recruits and to respond to the security and defence needs of the entire population.

Ineffective State institutions and lack of rule of law

49. During decades of instability, the politico-military elite has monopolized the State and effectively abolished the separation of powers. The rest of the population has been connected to the State through links of patronage at best and, at worst, not at all. Political patronage often takes precedence over fair competition and recruitment based on merit. Owing to low wages and frequent delays in the payment of salaries, public servants and the judiciary are highly susceptible to corruption and bribery. Outside the capital, the State is hardly present, which is why local political and social structures, including traditional and religious leaders, perform core functions that would normally be under the purview of the State. While these traditional structures play an important role in filling the gaps left by the State, including in conflict resolution, they perpetuate the lack of a relationship between citizens and the State, as well as between the regions and the capital, and in some cases exacerbate the exclusion of women.

Poverty and lack of access to basic services

50. The weak State institutions of Guinea-Bissau have been unable to deliver services to a population suffering from dire poverty. For decades, while the elite has competed for power and control over resources, the population has been denied the right to access basic services. The vast majority of the population, especially in the rural areas where an estimated 80 per cent live, has virtually no access to socioeconomic opportunities. Women are disproportionately affected in this regard, as they have limited or no entitlement to land ownership (depending on their ethnic group), despite constituting the greater part of the workforce in subsistence

agriculture. Maternal mortality rates in Guinea-Bissau are among the highest in the world and gender-based violence is widespread.

51. While Guinea-Bissau has the climate and soil to develop the agricultural sector, thereby driving economic growth and job creation, this potential has never been realized. Agriculture is limited to subsistence farming and the export of raw commodities (especially cashew nuts). This reality, which is disadvantageous to the overwhelming majority of the population, could be changed through investment in processing, packaging and related agro-industrial enterprises; this has been identified by the Government as a priority area to spur socioeconomic development. It is paradoxical that with an estimated 80 per cent of the population involved in agriculture just 7 per cent of the population is food secure. In addition, there is a dire lack of access to potable water.

52. Most communities do not have access to health care and education. In total, 64 per cent of women and 48 per cent of men are illiterate; in rural areas, those rates are higher, posing an obstacle to development and economic growth. The military coup of April 2012 led to the disengagement of the international community and a reduction of 55 per cent in aid for public investments in 2012. In addition, the coup undermined the functioning of State institutions from an already low level, thereby exacerbating the already precarious living conditions. The population has not been able to fully participate in the development of the country and has been excluded from the distribution of wealth as well as from involvement in State functions and decision-making, deepening a sentiment of disenfranchisement from the State and mistrust in the political leadership.

Impunity and human rights violations

53. The security and justice institutions of Guinea-Bissau are particularly weak, generating a widespread culture of impunity. The judiciary has little independence and limited means to carry out its core functions, especially the investigation of and prosecution for criminal acts committed by people in positions of power. The prisons in the country are not aligned with human rights and security standards. Access to justice for the population, an essential prerequisite for human rights, remains an important challenge, particularly in rural areas and for women. Less than 10 per cent of people who avail themselves of the justice system are women, although they disproportionately suffer from abuses and crime. Impunity constitutes one of the main threats to peace and stability, development and reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, and amnesty has been the preferred instrument to deal with the serious crimes and human rights abuses that have been committed. Absent true reconciliation, amnesty has proved to be counterproductive, removing a deterrent to crime and human rights violations. The two-year transition that followed the 2012 coup provided fertile ground for the military junta and affiliated politicians in power to scale up unlawful activities. The population has little trust in the justice system, which is perceived as being ineffective, biased and aimed at serving and covering up the interests of the powerful.

B. Risks and opportunities

54. The main risk factors that would have a severe impact on peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau are the following:

(a) An unravelling of the political consensus within the inclusive Government and the exacerbation of tensions between the main political leaders could lead to a Government lacking sufficient unity to undertake essential reforms, increased military interference in the affairs of Government or, in the worst instance, a coup d'état;

(b) Individuals could exploit the assassination or sudden death of political or military leaders (and/or rumours to that effect) in order to enhance their own position at the expense of stability;

(c) A possible outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Guinea-Bissau would have a negative impact on the population and on the country's already fragile State institutions.

55. Conversely, the current context offers the following opportunities:

(a) A competent, legitimate and inclusive Government whose leaders favour consensus-building and dialogue and that enjoys substantial domestic and international support;

(b) The political will of the Government to discuss and fight corruption, impunity, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as the strong regional links to combat such threats;

(c) The desire of national stakeholders to turn the page on decades of political instability;

(d) The commitment of international partners and financial institutions to resume cooperation and their positive reaction to steps taken on security sector reform, including, notably, the change in military leadership;

(e) The Government's commitment to increasing women's participation in decision-making and aligning the national legal framework with international human rights conventions;

(f) The continued presence of ECOMIB as a force for stability and security;

(g) The delivery of peace dividends and initial efforts to promote inclusive economic growth and the responsible exploitation of natural resources;

(h) The positive and constructive relationship between religious leaders and the role they can play in peacebuilding in general and in forging intercommunal tolerance in particular;

(i) The presence of UNIOGBIS and my Special Representative, who is well positioned to exercise my good offices and coordinate international support.

C. Priorities of the legitimate democratic Government

56. The main priorities of the country for the four-year period 2014-2018, as recently approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and adopted by the National Assembly in September, are set out below:

(a) To consolidate the rule of law and promote good governance and the reform of State institutions;

(b) To promote economic growth and poverty reduction;

- (c) To promote and enhance human development through capacity-building;
- (d) To revive efforts on foreign policy and regional integration and leverage the diaspora.

57. As articulated by the Prime Minister, the vision of the Government for the development of the country and the strategy for the partner round table contains four priorities approved by the National Assembly. These are:

- (a) Government stability (through structural reforms, including in the defence, security and justice sectors);
- (b) Industrialization of the agricultural sector (enabling the transformation of crops into value-added agro-industrial products);
- (c) Investment in energy and transportation infrastructure (with an emphasis on clean energy, roads and ports);
- (d) Monetizing and protecting the rich biodiversity of Guinea-Bissau through sound investments by credible partners (to diversify the economy so that it is not dependent solely on the export of raw cashew nuts and external aid).

58. During the consultations held by the strategic assessment mission with the country's leaders, three priorities of particular relevance for the alignment of the mandate of UNIOGBIS came to the fore:

- (a) Facilitation of dialogue and building of trust between the country's main political actors through the use of my good offices;
- (b) Provision of technical support for a national dialogue and reconciliation process;
- (c) Strong mobilization and coordination of international partners to maintain internal stability and security in Guinea-Bissau.

D. Strategic options and areas of intervention

59. National and international counterparts agree that UNIOGBIS has played a crucial role since its deployment in the country and in particular in helping Guinea-Bissau to emerge from the crisis and restore constitutional order. While the mandate of UNIOGBIS remains valid, some modifications in the emphasis of its implementation are warranted, based on the priorities of the legitimate, democratic Government, as well as on an analysis of the comparative advantages of the United Nations integrated presence in the country.

Strengthen the coordination and mobilization of international assistance

60. In order to support the legitimate, democratic Government of Guinea-Bissau, there is a need to strengthen the coordination and mobilization of international assistance in the consolidation of peace and democracy. The strategic assessment mission observed unanimous and strong support for my Special Representative in convening and coordinating international partners. Given the lack of coherence among partners in the past, the current opportunity should be continuously nurtured and built upon. As part of its coordination role, the United Nations has been asked by the Government to help mobilize international attention and support and convey

the message that the Government is credible and willing to carry out key reforms. More specifically, UNIOGBIS and UNDP have been requested to support the organization of a donor round table, scheduled to take place on 26 March 2015, to mobilize sufficient resources to carry out key reforms. In addition, it is recommended that the Government establish, with the support of partners, as needed, mechanisms of accountability in the use of donor contributions.

Reinforce the good offices role of my Special Representative and support a national dialogue and reconciliation process

61. In maintaining the presence of UNIOGBIS, key interlocutors have asked for my Special Representative to take on an active good offices role to forge a constructive relationship among important stakeholders, as well as among and within the institutions of the State. There is therefore a need to reinforce the good offices role of my Special Representative, including with surge capacity if required. This role is essential for mitigating intra- and inter-party divisions, in order to maintain a united and inclusive Government, which is necessary for the establishment of civilian control over the military and the implementation of socioeconomic reforms.

Support the continuation of the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Guinea-Bissau

62. All interlocutors acknowledged the role played by ECOMIB since its deployment to Guinea-Bissau as a stabilization force with a strong deterrent function. At critical moments, the presence of ECOMIB has prevented the degradation of the fragile situation. To date, ECOMIB has been entirely supported by ECOWAS. The Government and other interlocutors strongly believe that the mandate of ECOMIB needs to be extended during this delicate phase of peace consolidation. ECOWAS has indicated some difficulties in its ability to continue carrying the financial burden of the Mission by itself, and support from other partners is under discussion. In the meantime, all involved interlocutors favoured Security Council endorsement of the continuation of ECOMIB.

E. Exit strategy

63. The current integrated structure of UNIOGBIS, in which one of my deputy special representatives is also the Resident Coordinator, is conducive to a smooth transition, as the United Nations country team will gradually take over tasks that UNIOGBIS is mandated with carrying out. In this context, the UNIOGBIS leadership, utilizing its existing strategic policy group, will regularly assess progress in mandate implementation. This will assist the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau in planning and prioritizing its resource mobilization activities, taking into account progress and ultimate success in the implementation of the UNIOGBIS mandate.

VI. Observations

64. Following the return to constitutional order after the successful elections and the installation of the national authorities, Guinea-Bissau is striving to move from

fragility to stability. I commend the country's elected authorities for the strides they have already made in addressing the basic needs of the people that they represent as a first step towards a sustainable peace. I also note with satisfaction that the political leadership and society of Guinea-Bissau as a whole are demonstrating their commitment to reforming the security sector, the justice system, the public administration and the economy. In this regard, a constructive relationship between the President, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly will continue to be essential.

65. Notwithstanding this positive outlook, State institutions in the country remain weak and the root causes of instability remain largely unaddressed. I call upon all national actors to remain vigilant against the erosion of gains already made and to continue efforts to build political trust with the people. The consolidation of the rule of law and protection of international human rights and fundamental freedoms must remain a priority. I also ask that they continue to take all measures needed to prevent corruption, impunity or the use of Guinea-Bissau as a transit point for drug trafficking and organized crime.

66. The continued and sustained engagement of international partners will remain critical for the foreseeable future given that considerable socioeconomic needs remain unmet and poverty levels are extremely high. I call upon the international community to use the partner round table planned for 26 March 2015 as an opportunity to further enhance their engagement with Guinea-Bissau and to establish a forward-looking partnership. As one pillar of such a partnership, I encourage donors and authorities to support the Government in developing transparent aid coordination and tracking systems. It is important that partners continue to provide predictable and long-term support to help Guinea-Bissau make the necessary shift from its current economy, which is dependent on the export of cashew nuts and on external assistance.

67. At the root of the cycle of instability in Guinea-Bissau lies the fact that there has not been serious and genuine dialogue aimed at national reconciliation among the various stakeholders in the country. In this regard, I urge national stakeholders to embark on a path that moves the country firmly away from unconstitutional seizures of power towards sustained democratic governance. Achieving this will require an inclusive national dialogue aimed at finding collective solutions to the problems facing the country. I welcome the initial steps taken to reactivate the national dialogue and reconciliation process. I encourage all national stakeholders to ensure that the process is inclusive, addresses the root causes of instability and provides a solid platform on which to ensure sustained national reconciliation, political stability and socioeconomic development.

68. To ensure that the mandate of UNIOGBIS is aligned with the priorities of the legitimate, democratic Government, I recommend the inclusion of the priorities identified in paragraphs 60-62 of this report in the mission's mandate, namely: strengthened coordination of international partners and mobilization of international assistance; a reinforced role for my Special Representative with regard to the use of my good offices and greater support for a national dialogue and reconciliation process; and Security Council support for the continuation of ECOMIB, given its essential role as a partner to Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations.

69. I also recommend an extension of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months, until 29 February 2016, which would allow the mission to provide sustained support to the Government in moving its priorities forward.

70. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team under the leadership of my Special Representative, Miguel Trovada, as well as to regional and international partners for their continuing contributions to peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau.



Security Council

Distr.: General
20 January 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in reference to document S/2015/10, dated 2 January 2015, regarding matters of which the Security Council is seized and the stage reached in their consideration.

In this connection, I have the honour to inform you, upon instructions of my Government, that Tunisia requests the retention of the following items, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document:

68. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council;

71. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Khaled **Khiari**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations





Security Council

Distr.: General
20 January 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that the item entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" (S/10409) relating to the question of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, be retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized for the year 2015 and until such time as the dispute is resolved by peaceful means through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice, thereby ensuring a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the issue and achieving peace, security and regional and international stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
20 January 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2015 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 2 January, I have the honour to confirm that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to Haiti, during the period from 23 to 25 January 2015. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission (see annex).

I will be co-leading the mission together with Ambassador Samantha Power.

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission is as follows:

Ambassador Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins (Angola)

Mr. Bante Mangaral (Chad)

Ambassador Cristián Barros Melet (Chile)

Ambassador Liu Jieyi (China)

Mr. Alexis Lamek (France)

Ambassador Ms. Dina Kavar (Jordan)

Mr. Dainius Baublys (Lithuania)

Ambassador Hussein Haniff (Malaysia)

Ambassador Jim McLay (New Zealand)

Ambassador Usman Sarki (Nigeria)

Mr. Petr Iliichev (Russian Federation)

Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain)

Ambassador Peter Wilson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Ambassador Samantha Power (United States of America)

Ambassador Rafael Dario Ramirez Carreño (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Cristián Barros Melet**
President of the Security Council

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Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2015 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council trip to Haiti: terms of reference

Co-Leads: Chile and United States of America

To underscore the importance of inclusiveness and constructiveness to political stability, democratic governance and development, all of which promote conflict prevention;

To reaffirm the continued support of the Security Council for the Government and people of Haiti and their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and stability and promote recovery and sustainable development;

To urge Haiti's political actors to work cooperatively and without further delays to ensure the urgent holding of free, fair, inclusive, and transparent legislative, partial senatorial, municipal and local elections, including those that are long overdue, in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti;

To assess the ongoing strengthening of the Haitian National Police and the increasing exercise by national authorities of the responsibility of the Haitian State for the maintenance of stability and security in the country, examine efforts by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to increase coordination with the Haitian National Police and to strengthen their capacity in order for them to take full responsibility for security needs, underscore the importance of adequate funding for the Haitian National Police, encourage the Government of Haiti to take advantage of the support being provided by the international community to guarantee the provision of adequate security for the Haitian people, and assess the full range of the rule of law, security and security-related structures of the country;

To assess the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2180 (2014), taking into account the importance of maintaining a secure and stable environment, including for elections expected in 2015, and the impact of social and political realities on Haiti's stability and security; the increasing development of Haitian State capabilities, in particular the ongoing strengthening of the Haitian National Police; and the national authorities' increasing exercise of the Haitian State's responsibility for the maintenance of stability and security in the country;

To express strong support for MINUSTAH and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and their efforts to improve stability and governance in Haiti, as well as create conditions conducive to the security, reconstruction and development of Haiti;

To reiterate the importance of immediate, medium- and long-term sustained efforts to consolidate democracy, peace and stability; ensure the protection of human rights; and promote sustainable development, while bearing in mind the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and people of Haiti, and recognizing the importance of civil society organizations in this regard.



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 January 2015

Original: English

Identical letters dated 20 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the resolution on the developments of the situation in Libya, which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level on 15 January 2015 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated among the members of the Security Council and be issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim O. **Dabbashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 20 January 2015 from the
Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

Developments in the situation in Libya

The Council of the League was convened at the ministerial level in extraordinary session on Thursday, 15 January 2015, at the headquarters of the League Secretariat in Cairo under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in order to consider developments in the situation in Libya and their dangerous repercussions;

Recalling its earlier resolutions adopted at all levels, the most recent of which was resolution No. 7806 of 7 September 2014 adopted at the Council's 142nd ordinary session; communiqué No. 191 issued by the Council convened at the level of Permanent Representatives at its extraordinary session, which was held on 5 January 2015, concerning Libya; the outcomes of the meetings of the States neighbouring Libya, the most recent of which was the fifth meeting of those States held in Khartoum on 4 December 2014; as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular, Security Council resolution 2174 (2014);

Having heard the statement of His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, Mohamed al-Hadi al-Dairi;

Resolves to

1. Express grave concern at the continued escalation of violence and armed attacks in Libya and affirm that a political solution is the only way to resolve the crisis in Libya. Such a political solution must be arrived at through an all-inclusive and consensual national dialogue among all Libyan factions that reject violence, in order to establish security and stability, support legitimate institutions and isolate terrorist groups, and thereby foster the security and sovereignty of Libya, the unity of its people and the security of neighbouring countries;

2. Express its great dismay and concern at the current situation in Libya, and especially so in view of the attack against economic institutions and establishments and the oil crescent area;

3. Affirm its support for legitimate institutions, namely the House of Representatives and the transitional Government established by it, both of which express the will of the Libyan people;

4. Reiterate its complete solidarity with the Libyan people as they strive to restore stability and security throughout Libya;

5. Express its deep appreciation for the efforts of neighbouring countries to address the political and security aspects of the Libyan crisis, as well as its support for the efforts of the United Nations and Special Representative Bernardino León, and the efforts of Nasser al-Kidwa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to Libya;

6. Welcome the resumption of a second round of dialogue in Geneva, and urge all of the Libyan people to show the necessary flexibility and participate in the dialogue in a positive and constructive spirit, in order to arrive at a common position, so as to achieve the outcome desired from the dialogue and bring about security and stability;

7. Affirm its support for legitimate State institutions and the reconstitution and rehabilitation of security and military institutions; call on the Security Council to lift the prohibition on the transfer of weapons to the Libyan Army, in order to help establish security, achieve stability and promote comprehensive development efforts; and enable the country's diplomatic representatives to take up their duties in accordance with the relevant international instruments;

8. Reject categorically and condemn absolutely the killing and abduction by extremist terrorist groups and militias in Libya of innocent Egyptian nationals residing in Libya. Those groups and militias most recently killed an Egyptian doctor and his family, and abducted 13 Egyptian nationals in Sirte and a number of Tunisian nationals. The Council expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and stresses the importance of making a concerted effort to secure the release of detainees and ensure the safety of all persons residing in Libya;

9. Affirm the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya and non-interference in the country's internal affairs;

10. Provide the necessary support to the Libyan Government in order to hasten the process of rebuilding and rehabilitating State institutions through the implementation of targeted peacebuilding programmes, with a view to promoting stability and security, and fostering efforts to achieve comprehensive development;

11. Reiterate its rejection of all forms of terrorism and reaffirm the need to resolutely combat it, in accordance with United Nations resolutions. It also condemns strongly all attacks on economic institutions and establishments and the oil crescent area in Libya, because such attacks undermine the country's economic capabilities;

12. Take all necessary measures to support the legitimate authorities and help restore security and stability to Libya, in implementation of the relevant Council of the League of Arab States resolutions and the Charter of the League, and pursuant to the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the Arab League States and its military annex;

13. Request the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report in that regard to the Council at its next session.

Resolution No. 7852 — Extraordinary session — 15 January 2015

The State of Qatar entered a reservation to the resolution.



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 19 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations stating that Mr. Vladimir Safronkov has been appointed deputy representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

